FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon-Israel Negotiations

3 January Talks -- Disagreement over the agenda prevented the 3 January session of the Lebanon-Israel talks from opening on schedule in Khaldah, both Jerusalem and Voice of Lebanon radios reported. Instead of the official talks, the three delegations held consultations in an attempt to reach a minimum agreement on the disputed points, the Voice of Lebanon revealed.

30 December Talks -- The U.S. role at the talks and the normalization of relations were the two main issues discussed at the 30 December session of the Lebanon-Israel talks held in Qiryat Shemona, Beirut radio reported. While agreement was reached that the United States is a "full partner" in the talks, no progress was achieved on the issue of normalization, the radio added. Nevertheless, spokesmen for both the Lebanese delegation and the Israeli Foreign Ministry affirmed that some progress was made, according to statements broadcast by Voice of Lebanon and IDF radios, respectively. All sides attending the talks believe that an agreement will ultimately be reached, Jerusalem radio reported.

Normalization -- Lebanese delegation head Antoine Fattal reiterated that while it is clear that relations between Lebanon and Israel will be different in the future, the term "normalization" is unacceptable to the Arab world and therefore is unacceptable to Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported on 31 December. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon instructed their delegation to insist that the concept of, if not the word, normalization be included on the final agenda, according to a 2 January JERUSALEM POST report. Although a number of alternative proposals were made, none was acceptable to the Lebanese delegation, both Beirut radio and the JERUSALEM POST noted. Lebanon insists on using the term "framework of relations" because this would allow the Lebanese delegation to discuss all points and agree on only those points which are acceptable, an informed source told Beirut radio on 3 January.

Sharon Meetings -- Ari'el Sharon met secretly on 30 December near Tel Aviv with representatives of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in an effort, parallel with the official negotiations, to promote a Lebanese-Israeli settlement, the Tel Aviv daily MA'ARIV reported on 31 December. The Israeli Government is generally satisfied with the progress of both the overt and covert talks, which will continue, according to Jerusalem television and radio reports.

Israeli Withdrawal -- Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the Israeli Cabinet on 2 January that the IDF must remain in the Ash-Shuf area until the Syrians have withdrawn from the Al-Biqa' area and until both the Syrians and the PLO have withdrawn from Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. However, the Cabinet decided that the IDF should behave with extra caution to ensure that the soldiers not interfere in sectarian disputes, the radio added.

Arab Reaction -- The Kuwaiti Cabinet spokesman has urged Lebanon to insist on the withdrawal of all Israeli forces and to not allow the Israelis to take any advantages in the current negotiations, the Kuwait ARAB TIMES reported on 29 December. The paper described this as the first official Arab reaction to the talks. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf declared that the PLO has informed the Lebanese president of its total willingness to cooperate with the Lebanese Government, Baghdad Voice of PLO reported on 31 December. Asserting that Lebanon is receiving only unofficial verbal support from some Arab countries, the Damascus daily TISHRIN urged the Arabs to extend

actual support for Lebanon before it is too late, Damascus radio reported. The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are linked with world peace, because if Israel achieves political gains, a fire will be kindled in the area which will be difficult to stop and which could expose world peace to "dangers such as those which led to World War II," Amman radio reported citing the Amman daily AD-DUSTUR.

Lebanon Internal Situation

Syrian Envoy -- 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Tripoli on 30 December with a special message for former Prime Minister Rashid Karami from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Beirut radio reported. Following a meeting of the northern coordination committee, which 'Adi attended, Karami revealed that the conferees had identical views on both Tripoli and the general Lebanese situation, another Beirut report noted. The Syrian envoy returned to Damascus the same day, Damascus television reported

Tripoli Security -- Intense artillery and heavy weapons clashes continued in the Tripoli area throughout the weekend, according to reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. Noting that efforts were being exerted at the highest levels to calm the situation in Tripoli, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan urged all parties to help restore stability and calm, Beirut radio reported on 1 January. Karami sent an "urgent" appeal to the Syrian president asking that he send an official capable of halting the deteriorating situation, Beirut radio reported on 2 January.

PLO

During the past 3 months the PLO has carried out about 360 military operations in southern Lebanon, killing or wounding some 340 Israeli soldiers, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat claimed in a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA' reported by QNA. Such operations will not stop, the PLO leader stressed. In a Palestinian Revolution anniversary speech broadcast by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, 'Arafat likewise affirmed that "the guns will remain raised and the fingers will remain on the triggers." He also said a future Palestinian state would enjoy "immortal unity" with the Jordanian people.

During his stay in Algeria, the PLO leader announced that the forthcoming Palestine National Council session in Algiers will be held on 14 January, Algiers radio reported. Earlier, 'Arafat met in Tunis with the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia, who gave him an official invitation to visit Moscow, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Iraq

INA transmitted the text of President Saddam Husayn's 25 August 1982 interview with U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz. Asked by Solarz for his view on the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Saddam Husayn said "the simultaneous existence of an independent Palestinian state acceptable to the Palestinians and the existence of a secure state for the Israelis are both necessary." Not a single Arab official considers in his policy "the so-called destruction of Israel," the Iraqi leader affirmed.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Early on 2 January the Iraqi Navy destroyed four Iranian "naval targets" in the Khowr-e Musa area, an Iraqi military commun que broadcast by Baghdad radio announced. Monitored Iranian sources have not mentioned the attack. Earlier, another Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio claimed that late on 29 December Iraqi forces raided Iranian concentrations east of Basra, killing over 40 Iranians. A subsequent Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio said the Iranians had halted an Iraqi offensive on the southern front, inflicting heavy losses on the Iraqis.

Iraqi aircraft continued to raid Iranian targets in recent days. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio announced that Iraqi planes struck at Iranian troop concentrations and air defenses on 31 December. Tehran radio reported that Iraqi planes bombed Dehloran, in Ilam Province, on 2 January.

Iran

Relations With USSR -- Responding to a Soviet protest note over a 27 December demonstration by Afghan refugees near the Soviet Embassy in Tehran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry informed the Soviet Union that because of Iran's sympathy for the Afghan refugees, the authorities did not oppose the staging of a peaceful march, and that security officials did their best to control the crowd, whose great number had not been anticipated. The Iranian reply note, which was broadcast by Tehran radio, also expressed hope that the occupation of Afghanistan by "foreign forces" will end as soon as possible and said Iran has welcomed Afghan refugees, despite its own problems stemming from the war with Iraq, which is still shelling Iranian towns "with abundant Soviet political and military aid."

Court To Try Judges -- In a letter to the prime minister and the Supreme Court president, broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni announced the appointment of Ja'far Karimi as president of the newly-formed court authorized to try religious judges and public prosecutors.

Afghanistan

Over 200,000 people demonstrated against U.S. "imperialism" in a rally which ended in a meeting near the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Kabul radio reported. In speeches at the meeting broadcast by the radio, several speakers referred to the embassy as an "espionage nest" for organizing "conspiracies" against the Afghan people.

Meanwhile, recent rebel activity has included rocket attacks on the Soviet Embassy in Kabul and on the electric power station serving the city, according to AFP reports.

PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL TO MEET 14 FEB

LD021200 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Algiers, 2 Jan (APS) -- Yasir 'Arafat, in a statement to APS, announced that the coming session of the Palestine National Council will be held on 14 February in Algiers.

ARAB COMMITTEE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET 21 JAN

JN311338 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, has reported from Morocco that the foreign ministers of the Arab seven-member committee will meet in Rabat on 21 January to evaluate the outcome of the contacts that have been held by the committee in the capitals of the UN Security Council member states.

WAFA also called for a summit comprising the committee's member states.

PLO'S AS-SARTAWI CONFIRMS CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS

NC301757 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Paris, Dec 30 (AFP) -- Isam as-Sartawi, a political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasir 'Arafat, today confirmed that direct negotiations under the auspices of the International Red Cross were taking place between Israel and the PLO on an exchange of prisoners.

But Mr as-Sartawi, who lives in Paris and is in charge of relations between the PLO and the Socialist International, refused to confirm that the negotiations had been organised in Vienna by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Mr as-Sartawi also refused to name the PLO's representative at these talks or comment on reports that Israel was represented by Arieh Eliav, a former secretary-general of the Israeli Labour Party, and considered a "dove".

Some press reports have suggested that Mr as-Sartawi is the PLO's negotiator.

Mr as-Sartawi and Mr Eliav first met in Paris in 1975 in an effort to promote an Israeli-Palestinian peace and have kept in touch since. Mr Eliav was one of the founders of the Israeli committee for an Israeli-Palestinian peace.

'ARAFAT MEETS SOVIET ENVOY, INVITED TO MOSCOW

JN311720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, has received an official invitation from CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov to visit the Soviet capital. The USSR ambassador in Tunis conveyed the message to the commander in chief during a meeting held in Tunis yesterday. Our correspondent learned that the two sides made a comprehensive review of the situation in the Arab region, particularly in the Palestinian arena.

CONDITIONS FOR TAKING PART IN PEACE TALKS CITED

NC020856 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Egypt says it will not take part in the Middle East peace negotiations with Israel unless Jordan and the PLO are included.

In a television interview, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, described the present relations between Egypt and Israel as being what he called a state of cold peace. The minister said that for relations to improve, Israel has first to withdraw from Lebanon, open peace talks which would include Jordan and the Palestinians, and agree to negotiate over the disputed territory of Tabah in the Sinai.

GHALI: ISRAEL INVENTING NEW OBSTACLES IN LEBANON

NC301334 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 27 Dec 82-3 Jan 83 pp 28-31

[Interview granted by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali to MONDAY MORNING correspondent Mona as-Sa'id "last week"]

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, said last week that "it would not surprise him" if Israel was behind the Maronite-Druze clashes in Lebanon's central mountains.

In written answers to MONDAY MORNING's questions, Ghali said: "It would not surprise me if the Israelis, to have a pretext for maintaining their illegal military presence in Lebanon, would instigate fighting between the different components of the Lebanese people. 'Divide and rule' is a classic way of trying to impose foreign domination."

Ghali, who this month became the first senior Egyptian official to visit Lebanon and hold talks with its top leaders since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, accused the Jewish state of "inventing new obstacles every day to delay the negotiation and postpone the withdrawal of its troops" from Lebanon.

"The fact is," he charged, "that the Israeli Government is using the Lebanese crisis and its continuation as a way to divert energies and attention from the Reagan plan and the Palestinian problem.... The obstruction of the Lebanese negotiation by Israel is as much against Lebanon as it is against the diplomacy announced by President Reagan" last September.

How quickly Israel pulled out of Lebanon would depend on how much pressure the international community was ready to exert on the Israelis and "on the way the United States reacts to the very negative attitude adopted by Israel," Ghali said, adding:

"Let me remind you that it took only a few weeks for President Eisenhower to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai in 1956."

The Israelis, the minister said, must end their "illegal occupation of Lebanon immediately and unconditionally," regardless of what happened to the Syrian and Palestinian forces in Lebanon.

The Syrians were invited in by Lebanon and Palestinian armed presence was accepted by Lebanon, he said, "so it is up to Lebanon to decide when and how these troops should be withdrawn."

The Soviet Union, as a superpower and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, could play an important role in the search for Middle Eastern peace, he said, but only "if it chooses to adopt a constructive policy and encourage its friends to follow a sober, realistic line."

The full text of the questions and answers, which were written in English, follows:

[Question] What was the purpose of your recent visit to Beirut, and how would you describe the outcome of your talks in the Lebanese capital?

[Answer] The aim of my visit was to discuss with the Lebanese Government the ways and means through which Egyptian diplomacy can effectively assist Lebanon in securing a prompt withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon, and to express Egypt's unequivocal support for Lebanon's independence, unity and sovereignty over every inch of its national territory.

I was quite happy to go to Beirut, and I was happier after having had a series of very constructive talks with the president of the republic and a number of Lebanese leaders.

[Question] Is Egypt alarmed by the battles going on in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli -- apparently between pro- and anti-Syrian groups fighting for dominance?

[Answer] The fighting that has erupted between Lebanese people in Tripoli is not only a very sad event but can be a very dangerous development: Violence can spread all over the country very easily; so many foreign hands would gain from it and would encourage the renewal of civil war. But I am confident that the Lebanese people are mature enough and lucid enough not to let themselves once more be drawn into new conflicts which can only do more harm to Lebanon.

[Question] Lebanon is accusing Israel of responsibility for the fighting in the country's other trouble spot -- the mountains near Beirut. Was this the impression you got during your visit? Do you believe the Israeli army is responsible for the fighting going on between the Druze and Maronite communities in the central mountains?

[Answer] The presence of the Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon is certainly a source of tension. The withdrawal of these forces immediately and unconditionally is a prerequisite for a return to normality and stability.

It would not surprise me if the Israelis, to have a pretext for maintaining their illegal military presence in Lebanon, would instigate fighting between the different components of the Lebanese people. "Divide and rule" is a classic way of trying to impose foreign domination.

[Question] What was the outcome of your meeting with Mr. Walid Junblatt? Do you share Junblatt's view that France understands Lebanon better than the U.S. and would be in a better position to contribute to Lebanese independence if it had "a more explicit and active policy?"

[Answer] You would agree with me that we need the conjugated efforts of all countries of good will to try to solve the very intricate problems Lebanon is facing. So it is not a matter of France, the U.S. or some other country playing a part -- the essential thing is to obtain results, quick results; to ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and whatever other foreign forces whose presence in the country the Lebanese Government decides is not desirable, to ensure that the legitimate Government of Lebanon is able to function in an independent and sovereign manner under the banner of national unity and reconstruction.

[Question] Do you view the fighting in Tripoli and Ash-Shuf as one of the obstacles hindering the American-led efforts to negotiate the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon?

[Answer] The continuation of fighting is certainly a very negative element and hinders all efforts to solve the Lebanese problem.

[Question] Do you share the view of Foreign Minister Elie Salim that Israel is the main stumbling block to the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country?

[Answer] I certainly concur with the view of my Lebanese friend and colleague Elie Salim. Israel seems to be inventing new obstacles every day to block the negotiation and postpone the withdrawal of its troops. With a minimum of good faith from the Israeli side, the efforts of Ambassador Habib would certainly have brought some progress.

The fact is that the Israeli Government is using the Lebanese crisis and its continuation as a way to divert energies and attention from the Reagan plan and the Palestinian problem.

[Question] Is it your feeling that Israel has been delaying the withdrawal talks with Lebanon in order to gain concessions on the status of the West Bank and frustrate President Reagan's peace proposals?

[Answer] Certainly, the obstruction of the Lebanese negotiation by Israel is as much against Lebanon as it is against the diplomacy announced by President Reagan.

[Question] Lebanon has joined Egypt in refusing to hold talks with Israel in Jerusalem. Do you believe U.S. shuttle diplomacy between Lebanon and Israel is a good way to get around this problem?

[Answer] It is not for me to give preference to this or that means of securing the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. The decision must be the decision of the Lebanese Government. Egypt's attitude is to respect and support the decisions of your government.

[Question] Would you advocate a simultaneous or sequential withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and PLO forces from Lebanon?

[Answer] Again, our attitude is very clear: The forces that invaded Lebanon in June, the Israeli forces, must end their aggression, their illegal occupation of Lebanon, immediately and unconditionally. The presence of any other foreign forces in Lebanon is dependent on the desire of the Lebanese Government. It was Lebanon that invited the Syrian troops in 1976, and it was Lebanon that accepted the presence of Palestinian troops on its territory, so it is up to Lebanon to decide when and how these troops should be withdrawn.

[Question] It took Israel more than four years after President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem to evacuate Sinai. How long do you estimate it will take it to complete the evacuation of its troops from the whole of Lebanon, if at all?

[Answer] It all depends on the aptitude of the international community to press upon Israel the necessity to return to legality, to respect U.S. resolutions and the principles of international law. It all depends on the way the United States reacts to the very negative attitude adopted by Israel. Let me remind you that it took only a few weeks for President Eisenhower to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai in 1956.

[Question] Do you share the view that Israel's invasion of Lebanon has moved the Soviets off the Middle Eastern chessboard?

[Answer] The Soviet Union is a superpower and a permanent member of the Security Council, and as such, it can play an important role in the search for peace in the area is it chooses to adopt a constructive policy and encourage its friends to follow a sober, realistic line.

[Question] The PLO stated this week that any future Palestinian entity would have a special relationship with Jordan. Do you consider this a conciliatory PLO gesture towards the Reagan initiative? Do you believe the joint PLO-Jordan communique issued in Amman goes far enough in strengthening King Husayn's hand in his talks with President Reagan?

[Answer] All I can say is that the talks between Jordan and the PLO are a very important element, and I hope they will be able to reach an understanding that would promote the peace process.

[Question] Is Yasir 'Arafat still expected in Cairo?

[Answer] Yasir 'Arafat is welcome to come to Cairo when he chooses to do so. A visit would in itself be an important factor, but what is more important is to have such a visit enhance the prospects of a just and permanent peace.

AL-AKHBAR INTERVIEWS 'ALI ON MIDDLE EAST, USSR

NC020854 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali has affirmed that Egypt does not support imposing an Israeli peace treaty on Lebanon.

In a statement to AL-AKHBAR, published today, he said that such a treaty will have negative consequences on Lebanon's internal situation and on its relations with Arab states.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also affirmed that the withdrawal from Sinai is regarded as the biggest event in the year since 1982 and that this event has proved Egypt's correct course in its endeavours toward realizing the idea of restoring the occupied territories through peaceful efforts.

He added that Egypt will remain the focal point of peace due to its effective role in the Arab arena. He denied that Camp David is responsible for the Arab disruption and weakness.

'Ali indicated that Egypt aims at realizing a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He added that this will lead to strongly pushing the Palestinian stance and will have an effect on expediting a comprehensive settllement in the Middle East.

He pointed out that Egypt has previously called for the idea of a simultaneous and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. He affirmed that the Palestinian leadership is facing at present a historic responsibility because the loss or nonexploitation of the current opportunity may mean asserting the Israeli fait accompli principle.

In his statement to AL-AKHBAR, Kamal Hasan 'Ali called upon the Arabs to speedily move toward reaching a just solution to the Middle East problem before it is too late.

On Egyptian-Soviet relations, Mr 'Ali said that they are on their normal course and there is still the question of the exchange of ambassadors between the two countries.

He indicated that this matter will be discussed at the time agreed upon by both sides. In this respect, he pointed out that there are commercial and economic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union and that these relations are running on their defined course without obstacles and that technical and cultural cooperation is moving forward.

Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali concluded his statement by affirming that Egypt is interested in having balanced relations with the two superpowers, in terms of keeping the normal relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union without allowing this relationship to be affected by the relations of close friendship between Egypt and the United States.

MUHYI AD-DIN ON TABAH, NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NC021058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA) -- In statements to reporters following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning, Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that Israel has not withdrawn from Tabah so that there may be a case on which to conduct a continuous dialogue between it and Egypt.

He added: Consequently, we will resort to Article 7 of the peace treaty, which refers to conciliation and arbitration, in order to attain our complete and indisputable right. He pointed out that the United States fully agrees with Egypt's view.

Muhyi ad-Din further said: We will attain our full rights in Tabah through all means of contact and insistence.

Regarding the resumption of the second part of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, the prime minister said that the negotiation is basically connected with stressing the rights of the Palestinian people. He added: At the current stage, however, we give priority to the solution of the problems of Lebanon, including the withdrawal of all the foreign forces, and to the Jordanian role.

GHALI TO ATTEND NONALIGNED MEETING IN NICARAGUA

NC241230 Cairo MENA in English 1205 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Cairo, Dec 24 (MENA) -- State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will lead Egypt's delegation to meetings of the Coordination Bureau of the non-aligned countries scheduled to be held in Nicaragua on January 10 to 14.

The session will be an extraordinary one to be held on the ministerial level to discuss issues pertaining to the Latin American countries and prior to the convocation of the non-aligned summit conference due to be held in March in New Delhi.

Egypt's delegation comprises Ambassador Sa'd al-Fararji, Minister Plenipotentiary Mustafa 'Umar as well as a number of the Foreign Ministry's experts on non-alignment.

COMMUNIQUES ON IRANIAN LOSSES 29 DEC-2 JAN

Communique No 950

JN301746 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Comminque No 950 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces, which have courageously and determinedly confronted the Iranian covetous designs and suspect vile attempts, will, with God's help, remain strong and capable of scoring further victories on the battlefronts and of deterring the aggression and crushing the aggressors. The following are the results of our forces' operations last night and today:

1. Last night, one of our forward units carried out a daring raid against the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the area east of Basra. Our unit succeeded in storming the enemy's forward positions and in engaging the enemy in a battle in which all types of weapons were used. Well over 40 enemy personnel were killed and many others wounded.

2. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our forward positions in the Maysan operational sector. Our forces pounded the enemy troops, killing three and destroying a hardware stockpile, setting it on fire.

3. To rid himself of the Iranian regime's terrorism, an Iranian corporal defected to our forward units in the northern operational sector. Two Iranian civilians also defected to our units in the central sector. They were all removed safely to the rear lines.

4. The spiteful enemy today used artillery to shell the township of Mandali, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 December 1982

Communique No 951

JN311744 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Communique No 951 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 31 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The more the Iranian regime insists on its rancor and reckless arrogance against lofty Iraq, the more determined will the sons of Ar-Rafidayn be lying in wait for it, confronting its treacherous attempts and inflicting further losses on its forces. The following are the results of the military operations that raged last night and today:

1. Our capable aircraft today carried out daring raids and successful strikes against the enemy positions, weapons, and troop concentrations positioned opposite our forward units in the Maysan operational sector and deep inside its territory in the southern operational sector. Our aircraft succeeded in hitting and destroying the enemy air defenses and antiaircraft guns as well as its troop concentrations. After discharging 51 daring combat missions, all of our fighter planes returned safely to their base, praise be to God.

2. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our forward positions in the central operational sector. Our units pounded the enemy troops, killing three, and destroying one tank, two vehicles, and one hardware stockpile.

3. Two vehicles and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the area east of Basra.

4. The criminal Khomeyni clique, using artillery, today shelled Mandali, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 December 1982

Communique No 952

JN011712 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Communique No 952 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While sharing our great people's festivities on the occasion of Christmas and New Year, our heroic armed forces continue their legitimate defense of the glory of the homeland and sons, thus demonstrating their faith and confidence in triumphing over and crushing the covetous invaders and teaching the enemy eloquent lessons on how to respect others and their right to live with honor, dignity, and peace. The following is the outcome of the activities that raged in the operational sectors last night and today:

1. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our forward positions in the area east of Basra. Our forces pounded it, killing five, and destroying a hardware stockpile.

2. One was killed and one observation post was destroyed in the central operational sector.

3. One was killed in the northern operational sector.

4. Two observation posts were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

5. The treacherous Khomeyniite clique, using artillery, today shelled Basra and Mandali, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 January 1983

Communique No 953

JN021742 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Communique No 953 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The sons of glorious Iraq and its brave armed forces are solidly united against the covetous designs and expansionist trends of the Khomeyniite clique, dissipating its sick dreams and inflicting on its forces further losses on the ground, at sea, and in the air. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. A number of enemy naval units were discovered in the Khowr-e Musa area, northeast of the Arab Gulf, as they were about to enter Bandar Khomeyni this morning. Our heroic naval forces surprised them in a lightning attack, destroying four naval targets as follows: the first at 1214; the second at 1250; the third at 1352; and the fourth at 1456. All our capable naval units returned safely and victoriously to their base after accomplishing their mission with success and accuracy.

Our forward observation posts witnessed the state of confusion and panic which gripped the enemy naval and air force units in the area as they tried to save the rest of their naval targets and to remove the grave losses afflicted.

Thus, our brave naval forces affirmed their complete control over the prohibited area in the Arab Gulf waters, to which we have drawn attention in the past. Our forces will destroy every target in this area and at any time.

2. Our advanced units, using various types of weapons, pounded an enemy troop concentration in the central operational sector, killing 15 and wounding others.

3. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our forward positions in the area east of Basra. Our forces pounded it, killing eight and destroying one hardware stockpile and one observation post.

4. The spiteful Iranian regime today intermittently shelled Basra and Mandali with artillery, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 January 1983

SADDAM HUSAYN INSPECTS IV ARMY CORPS SECTOR

JN011728 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad this evening after conducting a 3-day inspection tour of the IV Army Corps on the frontline facing the Iranian regime.

During the tour, the president held a series of meetings with the commanders of formations and units and discussed with them the military situation and ways to adequately deter the enemy should it attempt to carry out a new adventure in this or in any other sector. The president toured the frontlines in the IV Army Corps sector and inspected the fighters in their positions.

Accompanying the president were Chief of Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal and a number of army officers.

LEBANESE ENVOY DELIVERS MEMO ON NEGOTIATIONS

JN301232 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] In his office at the Foreign Ministry, acting Foreign Minister Hasan Ibrahim this morning received the Lebanese ambassador in Amman, who handed him a memorandum from the Lebanese Government containing Lebanon's position on the tripartite Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations, particularly those held in the first round the day before yesterday. The ambassador also briefed the acting foreign minister on the Lebanese position on these negotiations.

BADRAN, ARMY COMMANDER RETURN FROM U.S.

JN021817 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, returned to Amman this evening from the United States after participating in the talks which King Husayn held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and ranking U.S. officials. The ministers, the chief of staff, and several ranking army officers received them at Amman airport.

ABU 'AWDAH RECEIVES PLO ENVOY, USSR AMBASSADOR

JN310755 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Amman, (PETRA) -- In his office at the Information Ministry yesterday, acting Prime Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah received 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Jordan. Later, he received Rafik Nishanov, USSR ambassador in Amman.

ENVOY IN RIYADH COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN MEETINGS

LD030846 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0752 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Jan (SPA) -- The Jordanian ambassador to the Kingdom, Hani Tabbarah, stated that Jordanian and Palestinian officials are now preparing for more talks to reach agreement on the form of relations between Jordan and the proposed future Palestinian state.

In a statement published in AR-RIYAD today, the Jordanian ambassador said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are presently very good, better than they had been at any previous time. This is because there are fraternal relations between the two sides and the two peoples are actually one people. He added that through the joint committee, which has made good progress in its work, talks between Jordan and the PLO never stopped. He stressed that these talks will lead to whatever will satisfy both peoples and serve their interests, including the subject of the confederation, which is still under discussion.

Hani Tabbarah announced that the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, will soon visit Riyadh during a tour in which he will acquaint the Arab leaders with the outcome of his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

REPORTAGE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

Al-Jumayyil Briefed

NC302018 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil held a meeting tonight. It was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, the Lebanese delegation participating in the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations, and the Lebanese-U.S. liaison committee.

During the meeting they listened to a report on the results of the second round held in Qiryat Shemona today, the details of the negotiations which took place during it, and the stands that were proposed.

It has been learned from informed sources that the Lebanese and Israeli delegations had submitted two different proposals and that the Lebanese proposal received U.S. approval while the Israeli proposal was not approved.

President al-Jumayyil is scheduled to hold another meeting with the delegation before next Monday to discuss the proposals that will be submitted at the third round of the negotiations to be held in Khaldah.

Draft Agenda of Talks

NC311723 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Beirut, Dec 31 (AFP) -- The Lebanese news agency Al-Markaziyah today published agenda drafts for the Israeli and Lebanese sides in their first two rounds of talks this week on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

The agency, which is generally well-informed, said that during the talks, held at Khaldah, south of here, on Tuesday, and in Qiryat Shemona, northern Israel, yesterday, the Lebanese negotiators pressed for a four-point agenda as follows:

-- A schedule for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon;

-- Examination of security measures;

-- Examination of the possibility of developing the armistice agreement;

-- Examination of bilateral ties.

The agency said that the Israelis had presented a four-point [as received] agenda draft as follows:

-- Normalization of bilateral ties, including an end to the state of belligerence, opening the border, setting up joint committee, halting the propagation of hostile information, renewing contacts and trade;

-- Security measures. This involved halting military operations against each other, setting up early warning radar stations, agreeing on the number of troops stationed in southern Lebanon and on their arms, allowing the Israeli Air Force to carry out reconnaissance flights in Lebanese air space and Israeli navy vessels to patrol in Lebanese waters, setting up observation posts and posting observation troops along the border;

-- Conditions for the withdrawal of Israel forces from Lebanon, including a Palestinian troop pullout, the release of war prisoners, the handing over by Syria and the Palestinians of the bodies of Israeli soldiers killed during the war and a simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli troops.

The agency said that the U.S. delegation has tried to reconcile the Israelis, who were pressing for "normalisation" to be put on the agenda, and the Lebanese, who wanted to avoid any such terminology.

The formula to be adopted at next Monday's third meeting, the agency said, was "the examination of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon and security measures between the two countries" coupled with "examination of a future framework for political ties" between the two.

Delegations Arrive in Khaldah

NC030924 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The third round of the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations are scheduled to begin soon at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. The Israeli delegation arrived at the hotel at 0925. The American delegation arrived 5 minutes later, and it was followed by the Lebanese military delegation, which is headed by Brigadier General 'Abbas Hamdan.

Acceleration of Talks Sought

NC030959 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The third round of the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations began at approximately 1130 [0930 GMT] today. The three delegations arrived successively as of 0925. Our team there has had two direct contacts with us on the atmosphere prevailing at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah and it will provide us with developments.

The national news agency today reported that during today's session, Lebanon intends to demand the speeding up of the negotiations process and the holding of continuous meeting. The agency added that Lebanon will submit this demand immediately after the Lebanese, Israeli and American negotiators agree on a final agenda. The agency further said that this demand was approved during the meeting which was held last night under the chairmanship of the president of the republic and in the presence of members of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations and of the prime minister and the foreign ministers.

Disagreements Obstruct Start

NC030954 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0942 GMT 3 Jan 82

[Telephone dispatch by a Voice of Lebanon correspondent at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- live]

[Text] The Lebanese-American-Israeli negotiations have not yet started. The delegations are continuing their consultations in an attempt to overcome the obstacles and reach a minimum agreement on the points of disagreement, which are mainly represented in Lebanon's demand to concentrate on the question of the withdrawals, whereas Israel is seeking to emphasize the normalization of the relations between the two countries.

According to information we have acquired, it is reiterated that the meeting might just start at noon.

Peripheral Meetings Held

NC031014 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0950 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Excerpt] We are again in direct contact with the Voice of Lebanon in Khaldah.

[Begin recording] The situation at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah at this moment can be summed as follows:

The official negotiations have not yet started. They were scheduled to start at 1030 this morning. The disagreements are the reason for the delay. This has become obvious.

The Lebanese, American, and Israeli delegations have held peripheral meetings and consultations. The Israeli delegation went to the meeting hall while the Lebanese and American delegations held a unilateral meetings. All the delegations are expected to go to the hall to start the session after an agreement has been reached on minimum basic issues. The official session will, therefore, start near noon among the Lebanese, American, and Israeli delegations.

In view of the fact that the session will be secret, the reporters and photographers have been asked to leave the hall to the place allocated for them in preparation for starting the negotiations. [end recording]

Jerusalem on Delay

TA031117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1112 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Report from Khaldah by Me'ir Einstein -- recorded with Avi Pazner remarks previously recorded]

[Excerpt] The Israeli, Lebanese, and U.S. delegations arrived at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah at nearly 0930 this morning. The delegation members immediately convened for prior consultations intended to prepare the ground for the official opening of today's meeting. It seems, however, that the consultations today, contrary to the two previous meetings in Khaldah and in Qiryat Shmona, are taking a long time. The official working meeting has not yet begun.

The delegation leaders -- Morris Draper from the United States, Antoine Fattal from Lebanon, and David Kimche from Israel -- are conferring in one of the hotel rooms. Foreign Minstry spokesman Avi Pazner says that the long consultations do not indicate any special difficulties.

[Pazner] At the moment, the delegations are holding informal consultations. The official meeting has not yet begun. I hope it will begin later today.

[Question] Mr Pazner, does the fact that the session has not yet begun indicate that there are any special problems?

[Answer] No, not at all. This is a technique whereby you sometimes prefer having informal talks among delegation leaders instead of formal talk.

[Einstein] From officials associated with the talks, we have learned that on today's agenda is the attempt to find a definition acceptable to both sides to what Israel terms normalization.

In any event, the fact that the consultations are still continuing indicates that the working meeting today will be shorter than usual. Incidentally, the numerous television and radio teams are waiting impatiently to enter the meeting hall to phototraph the delegations seated around the negotiating table.

Fattal Remarks

NC031250 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1217 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon team in Khaldah will now provide us with a direct and urgent voice message:

[Begin recording] We are finally reaching a formula acceptable to both sides. The negotiations are continuing and there is no intransigence. Philip Habib will not come to Qiryat Shemona on Thursday.

These are the highlights of the brief statement which Ambassador Antoine Fattal, the leader of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations, made to reporters who together with the photographers were invited to the meetings hall at 1345. A meeting began at 1355. It is likely it will last 30 minutes, after which the delegation members will have lunch. A member of one of the delegations explained that the official meeting will be held in the afternoon and that the atmosphere was characterized by flexibility. Colleague Mansur 'Awn will now speak to you about Ambassador Fattal's statement.

In a statement to the Voice of Lebanon, leader of the Lebanese delegation Dr Antoine Fattal said: We have not overcome all obstacles. There are some difficulties and we need some time to reach an understanding on the agenda. The essence cannot be easily separated from the form. Therefore, a person must be cautious. He added: It will be decided this afternoon whether the next meeting will be held in Qiryat Shemona on Thursday.

Answering a question by collegue Claude, Fattal denied that Habib will come to the area on Thursday. He pointed out that Habib will hold a meeting with the U.S. President tomorrow. Fattal ruled out the possibility of issuing a statement on today's meeting. He explained that attention is still focused on the agenda. He said: There is no intransigence and we are holding consultations. He also denied that the Israeli side concentrates on the normalization issue. I believe, Dr Fattal said, that we will ultimately reach a formula acceptable to both sides. He added: If we cannot agree on an agenda, then we will negotiate without it. He considered obstacles as something normal in all negotiations. The start of negotiations is usually slow to preclude errors.

We mention here, dear listeners, that the delegations are having lunch now and that they will hold a secret session after these long consultations which have been held since the start of the Lebanese-American negotiations. [end recording]

Fattal Interviewed

NC031355 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The third round of Lebanese-Israeli negotiations on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon were held with full U.S. participation in Khaldah at 1350 today.

The third round of talks were preceded by extensive peripheral consultations during which the U.S. side contacted the Israeli side to remove the obstacles hindering the progress of the talks. Our correspondent Samir Mansur had a private interview with chairman of the Lebanese delegation Ambassador Antoine Fattal.

Ambassador Fattal said: My great hope is that the heads of the delegations will meet and agree on some points. I will give an example: At the Law of the Seas Conference, after 10 years of negotiations which were all technical, an agreement was reached and was signed last month. As for us today, there is technical flexibility whereby we have overcome [differences] over some phraseology and some difficulties.

In answer to a question on Thursday's meeting, Fattal said: Yes, the meeting will be held as usual in Qiryat Shemona. I think this matter has been finally settled.

On the arrival of Philip Habib in the area, Fattal said: Concerning Mr Habib, he will be with us in 15 days' time. He will meet tomorrow with President Reagan.

Asked if a statement would be issued after the meeting, Fattal said: I don't know yet but I don't believe so.

Asked if there is emphasis on reaching a unified agenda, Fattal said: Yes, and there is no intransigence or insistence on the word normalization.

Answering another question on the Israeli emphasis on normalization, Fattal said: I cannot answer this question because it is not correct. There is some flexibility, and I believe ultimately we will be able to reach a formula acceptable to the two sides.

Asked whether the talks will take a long time, Fattal said: It is natural for all talks to make a somewhat good start, but we cannot hurry so we do not make mistakes.

Asked if by the time Habib returns, there will be some progress, Fattal said: God willing. We are awaiting [progress] soon.

Asked if there are constant consultations with his government, he said: We are constantly in contact with our government. The two sides have serious and important issues before them on which they must consult their governments.

Bilateral Talks Denied

NC031422 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] An official source has stated that Lebanon ridicules rumors circulated by Israel that bilateral negotiations are taking place between Lebanon and Israel. The source said: There are no negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, neither official nor unofficial, except those being held with the participation of the United States through the initiative of President Reagan.

SYRIANS ASKED TO HELP RESTORE SECURITY IN NORTH

Karami Appeals to Al-Asad

NC021224 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] [Former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the coordination committee in the north continue to follow up developments and search for ways of restoring security and stability to the capital of the north, Tripoli.

Karami sent an urgent message to President Hafiz al-Asad appealing to him to intervene and send an official capable of checking the deteriorating situation.

Karami expressed his readiness to visit Damascus and discuss with the officials there the current conditions which the city of Tripoli is experiencing under these fateful circumstances through which the homeland is passing.

Karami Phones Khaddam

NC021516 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] After chairing a meeting of the Tripoli coordination committee today, [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami said he telephoned Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and briefed him on the current events in Tripoli. He pointed out that he affirmed to Minister Khaddam the need for action to stop the security deterioration in Tripoli.

He said a Syrian military delegation will leave for Tripoli shortly to tackle the situation there. Karami appealed to everyone to stop the abnormal practices in Tripoli, saying that these acts are disgraceful and painful and that, eventually, some people will bear the responsibility for these acts.

Al-Wazzan, Counterpart Consult

NC031432 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] After the meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison council -- held under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, and official responsible for coordination in the negotiations among all parties, Ambassador Ghazzan Tuwayni -- Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that he had contact with Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and consulted with him on the security situation in Tripoli, expressing the hope that fraternal Syria would take action to help end the tragic situation in Tripoli.

Syrian Aid

NC301804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Syrian Minister 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi and Colonel Muhammad Ghanim arrived in Tripoli this morning. They met with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami at his house. Minister 'Adi handed Karami a personal letter from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Karami, Minister 'Adi and Col Ghanim then joined a meeting of the northern coordination committee.

After the meeting Minister 'Adi said: This visit comes within the framework of the efforts Syria is exerting to bring Tripoli out of the atmosphere it has been living in; we hope that the committee's and our efforts will succeed. He added: Praiseworthy measures are being taken by our brothers in the coordination committee which we hope will have good results. He added: Prime Minister Karami has given me a letter for President al-Asad which we shall promptly deliver. This letter reflects the continued confidence between Syria and Prime Minister Karami.

Prime Minister Karami said: We gave a complete picture of the current situation. Views were identical on what must be done in the interest of Tripoli and the general national situation. We are confident that President al-Asad will not hesitate, in light of what he considers as serving the national interest, in tackling matters with the required speed and determinat[illegible] This will create reassurance and confidence in the present and the future. I have received a check for 10 million pounds from the delegation as a contribution from Syria to the assistance fund. This money will be distributed to those who have suffered losses.

AL-WAZZAN URGES END TO TRIPOLI CLASHES

NC011941 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today followed up the security developments in the country, particularly in Tripoli following the resumption of the clashes there this morning. He held several contacts with the security commands and the officials and those concerned in the capital of the north. He stressed the need to contain and limit these clashes.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan tonight made a statement in which he said: We are pained by the resumption of the incidents and their deterioration in the capital of the north despite all the efforts which are being exerted on the highest levels to calm down the situation and despite the announcement of positive stands, which are only adhered to for a short time, following which the situation becomes worse.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: What adds to our pain is that this is happening at a time when the world is looking at us and when we are seeking to end the Israeli occupation and confronting hateful negotiations. These negotiations require us all, including those concerned in the Tripoli arena, to adopt a united stand in which we would be concerned with nothing other than saving the homeland from this occupation and restoring Lebanese legitimacy and sovereignty over every inch in Lebanon.

In conclusion, Al-Wazzan said: When renewing our contacts to ensure calm and stability in Tripoli, we demand all to rise to the level of their historical responsibility and help in restoring stability and calm to the capital of the north.

AL-JUMAYYIL MESSAGE TO NATION ON NEW YEAR

NC312021 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Message addressed by President Amin al-Jumayyil over radio and television to the Lebanese people on the occasion of the New Year -- live or recorded]

[Text] This is Beirut, which we all love. This is Beirut which has become the symbol of our national unity as of the date it was reunited. We loved Beirut for its beauty, but we love it more now because it suffered and endured. However, Beirut is not all Lebanon.

On the occasion of the New Year and on the occasion of this new start in our national life, I wanted us all to meet so that we may have a look at Beirut and beyond Beirut. I wanted us to look at all the areas in Lebanon -- the north and the south -- and to remember the Al-Biqa', the mountain and all areas in Lebanon. I wanted us also to remember Ba'labakk and Jubayl and to think about the future of Lebanon -- beautiful Lebanon which we want to make beautiful again and make it strong.

Some of us might have forgotten that there is a Ba'labakk and that there are other areas in Lebanon. However, there is the whole of Lebanon. We never thought that Lebanon could be confined to one area. All Lebanon was not spacious enough for us. It is natural not to confine ourselves to a certain piece of land or area in Lebanon.

On the occasion of the New Year, the anniversary which is dear to all of us, we all look with hope and optimism to the new year. I wanted to celebrate this occasion with you in every house and hamlet to reach whoever cannot reach me, go to whoever cannot come to me and hear the voice of whoever could not make me hear his voice. I came to listen to you so that all the Lebanese people may hear that there are remote areas which cannot make their voice heard.

We all now hear the voice of Lebanon, the voice of conscience, to cooperate together to create Lebanese solidarity in order to tackle Lebanon's problem and in order to tackle the Lebanese problem and solve it, and to cooperate together in facing the challenges.

I know that there are many demands, damages, difficulties, problems, and pressures. However, I am resolved that we will triumph over the problems, difficulties, and damages and that we will contain the demands and pressures. The only object of the discussions taking place now is to consolidate Lebanese sovereignty and the dignity of the Lebanese citizen.

Our current efforts are focused on the army and the security forces and all the other official security forces. Our attention is devoted to the quick rebuilding of all these forces, particularly the Lebanese Army, which we want to consist of all Lebanon. We want all the sons of Lebanon to participate in strengthening and rebuilding the army and to join it so it may be present everywhere in Lebanon. The Lebanese Army does not discriminate at all between one area and another. We will soon forget the concept of East and West Beirut. Beirut is one and the army is ours and it must be present in all Beirut quarters and areas.

When confronting these problems, we are fully aware of our duties as a state. We have resolved to end this odd situation, particularly through our intrinsic strength as a Lebanese people and through the support of Lebanon's friends.

However, concerning the other problems, we all know the situation of the Treasury. I shall give some figures. When we assumed power, there was a deficit of 6 billion Lebanese pounds in the budget. It was a deficit which accumulated from 1980 to 1982. In addition to this there were 5.5 billion pounds in bonds and a 2-billion-pound deficit in the fuel fund. Thus, there was a nearly 13.5 billion pound deficit in the Lebanese Treasury. In addition to this, there was about 10 billion Lebanese pounds worth of losses as a result of the Israeli invasion, of these only 2 billion pounds were losses suffered by Beirut. To all this we add the problems related to the status of the citizen whose national income diminished by an average of 33 percent instead of rising 50 percent -- a decrease of about 80 percent.

We are facing all these problems today in our social and development march. The most persisting and difficult problem which concerns us at present and which we must tackle is meeting the need for 125,000 housing units. In addition to this, 9,000 housing units are urgently needed for the evacuees or for those who are living in houses illegally. This will cost us about 30 billion Lebanese pounds. Moreover, we must not forget that about 11,000 housing units must be guaranteed every year. The state is required to guarantee about 3 billion Lebanese pounds annually for tackling the housing problem, which today is very urgent. This problem also has social and security problems. There are also the other projects, which used to cost about 20 billion pounds but at present, because of the increase in the cost of living and in the price of commodities, may cost 50 or at least 40 billion Lebanese pounds. We also have compensations of about 20 billion pounds to pay. This is part of the situation which the Lebanese Treasury is suffering from.

The program for 1983: In 1983, we are determined to spend about 1.5 billion Lebanese pounds on roads, hospitals, schools, and sewage projects. When I mention roads, we have 8,000 km of roads in Lebanon and perhaps 7,500 km of roads must be repaired because of the bad condition they are in.

Moreover, Beirut must be immediately reconstructed, particularly the commercial center project, which today urgently needs to be implemented because the commercial center affects the Lebanese situation as a whole. The capital must be restored to its former position so as to play its role in the sphere of all Lebanon. This is the situation we are suffering from; this is the financial and development problem we are suffering from. The state is not deluded by these figures. I am absolutely not afraid of these figures because Lebanon, despite everything, is capable of proceeding anew. Lebanon is capable of triumphing over this financial problem.

There are many solutions which the state is envisaging. We must first reappraise the principle of regulating the annual budget. The state budget must be reconsidered so that it will have a development character which will take into consideration comprehensive development in the homeland. Hence, the required savings will be achieved and naturally scheduling will provide savings and will give more effectiveness to the available funds. There are also the loans and aid we have been promised by the fraternal states, the World Bank, and friendly states through the so-called Marshall Plan to save the Lebanese economy. There is also a final solution which I have resorted to and which will also have a fundamental effectiveness. It is Lebanese solidarity in the march to and battle for salvation -- the salvation of the Lebanese economy.

Therefore, we are in the process of establishing a national development fund. Contributing to the fund will be Lebanese expatriates and all the Lebanese capable of this and Lebanon's friends. The banks benefiting from Lebanon will also participate in the national development fund. We hope to draw up the bases of the fund which will be headed by qualified persons capable of assuming the responsibility and of drawing up complete programs for financing to be allocated for specific projects having a comprehensive national development character.

Through this visualization and in spite of all the figures I mentioned, our financial and economic situation is still sounder than that of any other state. Maybe some states which appear to be healthy will envy us for our present situation because our situation is still sounder than that of others. Our situation is capable of being handled swiftly and radically for the sake of arriving at the best situation and for the sake of securing a better life for Lebanese citizens.

This is what I wished to say in relation to our development situation, particularly in relation to the financing of some projects in spite of the situation I mentioned about the Lebanese budget. What makes us wonder more and more, which may be a main reason for our optimism in addition to the reasons I have mentioned, is the Lebanese citizen himself, the ambition of the Lebanese citizen, the capability of the Lebanese citizen, the determination of the Lebanese citizen, which made him overcome all difficulties and overcome all challenges. The Lebanese people knew in the gloomiest circumstances how to turn tragedy into glorious pages of Lebanon's history despite the shedding of sweat and blood which we saw in the hard ordeal which Lebanon has experienced. There is no doubt that the Lebanese people stood fast and proved that they deserve to live on this earth sovereign and independent. The Lebanese people today showed to the world that they deserve to live in this Lebanese soil with dignity and vigor.

I pledge to you that the adventure of salvation will continue. We want to support and develop the reconstruction work. I pledge to you that Lebanon will soon be sovereign and independent on all its soil. I pledge to all areas in Lebanon, the north, the south, the Al-Biqa', the mountain, and its capital that all these areas will be secure and tranquillity will be restored to all Lebanon and to all the Lebanese. I pledge to you that we will feast next year while all Lebanon is well and all citizens are well. Happy new year and may Lebanon be always well.

REPORTAGE ON TALKS HELD AT QIRYAT SHEMONA

Beirut Radio Report

NC301137 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1105 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Dispatch by Radio Lebanon and the National News Agency delegation from the cultural center in Qiryat Shemona; in Arabic followed by French and English versions -- processed from English -- live]

[Text] We just learned that the delegations resumed their second round of talks after a break for more consultations between the head of the Israeli delegation and the American representative Mr Draper on one hand and the head of the Lebanese delegation Dr Fattal and the American ambassador on the other.

We remind you that while Lebanon is insisting on an extension of the amnesty pact between the two countries, Israel is steering toward achieving normal relations between Lebanon and Israel. It was also learned that the interruption of the first session of talks was due to the need of the Israeli delegation for more consultations between, of course, the head of the Israeli delegation and his government. Lebanon is now working at achieved [as heard] a unified order of the day on which the delegations could work toward achieving complete withdrawals from our country.

No Progress Seen

TA301205 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer report from Qiryat Shemona -- live]

[Text] Well, things are still as they were. The sides in the meeting before noon again repeated the stands they presented at the beginning of the week in Khaldah. The Israeli delegation insists that there be a headline to the negotiations which will say "the normalization of relations between Israel and Lebanon," the Lebanese delegation says again today that they are ready to discuss the future of relations, but the word normalization bothers them. The head of the Lebanese delegation, Antoine Fattal, said in the talks that the word normalization will not be accepted in the Arab world. We cannot use this term. It is clear that the relations between us, between Israel and Lebanon, will be different in the future, but this term is unacceptable to us.

Up to now, there is no greater flexibility in the Israeli stand. According to an official evaluation it does not seem that a decision [sikum] will be reached today in regard to the agenda. The U.S. delegation, for the time being, tends not to take a stand, and leaves the two sides to go on arguing. Before noon there was a meeting of the plenum, and after that the three heads of delegations, Morris Draper, Antoine Fattal and David Kimche, met in an attempt to find a way out of this issue of defining the future of relations, but as was said there is still no advance in those subjects. But it should be said that all sides agree that an agreement [heskem] will be reached in the end, and a high-ranking personality close to the talks told me this morning that there will be an agreement.

In order to make it clearer, this personality told me an old Chinese story. This story tells of fishermen finding a body in the river. The fishermen comes to the family of the deceased and wants to return the body to the sons in return for money, and the sons refused to pay and go to the Chinese wiseman.

The wiseman tells the sons and the fishermen to wait. Why should they wait? So the wiseman tells the sons that they should wait because the fishermen will not be able to hold on to the body for long because of the smell, and he tells the fishermen to wait because the sons will not be able to stand the shame of not burying their father for long. The same goes for the agreement between Israel and Lebanon, I was told by this high-ranking personality. Both sides have enough interest in order not to extend the time and to reach an agreement in the end.

Any maybe there is another issue about the delegations who hold the contacts here, the Israeli and Lebanese delegations. Those delegations, so it seems at least, have many restrictions. The Israeli delegation is directed by a steering team, and before noon there were a few phone calls with Ministers Shamir and Sharon. The Israeli delegation cannot take any step without receiving ministerial confirmation, and the same goes for the Lebanese delegation where there are various kinds of watchdogs. In the Lebanese delegation there is a Sunni, a Shi'ite, a Syrian Catholic and a Maronite, and each of them reports in a different direction.

Therefore up to now there is no progress. It should be said that in the last 24 hours, parallel to those open contacts, there was a meeting between the defense minister and personalities from Lebanon here in Israel, and so the secret and the open contacts will continue with the estimation that in the end an agreement will be reached.

Special Communique Expected

NC301408 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1404 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Dispatch by Radio Lebanon and the National News Agency delegations from Qiryat Shemona in Arabic followed by French and English versions -- processed from English -- live]

[Text] Now the two respective delegations have just evacuated the meeting room and it seems that there is a very special communique which has been published but has not been announced yet. [as heard] In any case, we will be dispatching to you all about it later on.

Session Ends; Progress Made

TA301500 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1450 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] The second session of the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon in Qiryat Shemona ended a few minutes ago. After the session the Foreign Ministry spokesman issued the following statement: Today we continued a review of Israel's and Lebanon's positions in our discussions on determining an agreed upon agenda for the negotiations. Further progress was made today; a few difficulties were overcome and the distance between positions was narrowed with respect to other difficulties.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel notes that an understanding was reached between the delegations that there is no need to include a section in the agenda about the U.S. role in a settlement, as Lebanon had demanded at first. In contrast, the definition of the dispute remained unresolved regarding the agenda's section on normalization.

Schiffer Summarizes Talks

TA301626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1515 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer from Qiryat Shemona -- live]

[Excerpts] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche told us a short while ago that it is in the nature of the Lebanese negotiations that progress be achieved one step at a time. Today also some progress was made, Kimche said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Avi Pazner summed up today's talks: We continued a review of Israel's and Lebanon's positions and our discussions for establishing an agreed upon agenda for the negotiations. Further progress was made today; a few difficulties were overcome, and the distance between positions was narrowed with respect to some other difficulties. We will continue our talks next Monday in Khaldah. Thank you.

Pazner concealed more than he revealed. However, it should be said that on the main subject -- the normalization of relations between Israel and Lebanon -- there was no progress. The sides continue to maintain their opening positions. Lebanon says: We are willing to discuss future relations, but normalization is unacceptable to us, and it will not be accepted to the Arab world to which we belong. The Israeli side is willing to soften its position by defining the matter differently if progress is achieved on substance. If the Lebanese agree now to open borders, and if the state of war is declared ended, it is unimportant what the matter is called -- normalization or another term.

On what, then, was progress achieved? The Lebanese, who proposed including in the agenda a section defined as the U.S. role in the arrangements [hesderim], agreed to drop the matter from the agenda following Israel's demand. Israel's fear was that Lebanon might ask the United States to set up warning stations in the security zones in southern Lebanon, in contrast to the Israeli position, which proposes the establishment of three Israeli warning stations for a limited time, with the Lebanese Government's agreement. This is not a question of semantics, the Israeli delegation members say. If we define the substance of our future relations with Israel now, afterwards the job will be easy. It should also be said that alongside the contacts Lebanon is holding with Israel, envoys on behalf of President al-Jumayyil have been sent to Syria, and those two countries are holding urgent contacts to bring about the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon, and this is also connected to the talks with Israel.

The delegations will meet again on Monday in Khaldah, south of Beirut, in the hope of scoring achievements more significant than today's. Tomorrow morning Kimche and Major General Avraham Tamir will brief the foreign and defense ministers, and on Sunday the entire Cabinet will receive a full report.

U.S., Normalization Discussed

NC301738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] The discussions at today's round of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations focused on two main topics:

The first pertaining to the U.S. role and the second to the question of the normalization of relations which was submitted by the Israeli delegation.

Authoritative sources have said the Israeli side to the negotiations agreed on the Lebanese stand after a long discussion and confirmed that the U.S. side is a full partner in the negotiations and not an observer as the Israelis had wanted.

Information coming from Israel indicates that no progress was achieved in the discussions on normalization, over which a number of proposals for an alternative have been made. However, the Lebanese delegation continued to adhere to its official stand confirmed by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil in a number of his speeches and stands.

Israel Optimistic on Talks

TA310636 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Israeli officials are confident that an agreed agenda will be reached in the forthcoming rounds of negotiations with Lebanon. Once this is achieved, the officials say, it would then be possible to make rapid progress in the talks. At present, the sides are not yet discussing items of normalization but rather how deep the relations should be between the two countries. This morning Foreign Minister Shamir will meet with Israeli delegation heads for consultations. On Sunday the negotiations will be discussed at the weekly Cabinet session.

Delegation Consults Minister

TA310911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the talks with Lebanon has received clear instructions to firmly demand [lidrosh] that the normalization issue be discussed in a real [mamashi] manner. The delegation will be allowed to compromise on the terminology and definition in order to make it easier for the Lebanese to approve them.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the delegation briefed Ministers Shamir and Sharon this morning on how the talks were going. It was emphasized in the consultation that an agreement has already been achieved on normalization in the working paper concluded by the defense minister with officials close to President al-Jumayyil.

3 Jan Talks Previewed

TA030544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The third session of the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, with U.S. participation, will convene in Khaldah, south of Beirut, to discuss bilateral arrangements. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports on the talks:

[Begin Schiffer recording] The delegations are going to Khaldah without any illusions, but there is no sign that the delegations will reach an agreement today on an agenda for the deliberations. This is what officials associated with the negotiations believe. The main stumbling block is Israel's desire to discuss the nature of relations with Lebanon, or alternatively, normalization.

Several formulations were proposed in Qiryat Shemona for the normalization clause, such as good neighborly relations. The Americans proposed constructive bilateral relations, and so on and so forth. The Lebanese are benefiting from this argument, and political elements say that they want to appear in Arab world eyes as a party which was left with no choice.

This morning the assessment prevalent in Jerusalem has not changed. The agreement to change the nature of relations between Israel and Lebanon will be signed at the end of the process, a draining process of negotiations which will culminate in Washington rather than in this region.

In recent days Israel has asked the United States several times to speed up efforts to effect the removal of the Syrians and the PLO from Lebanon, which is the conditions for the IDF's withdrawal.

Lebanese Government officials are optimistic, saying that in their secret contacts with Syria and the PLO these two forces expressed their willingness to leave. There is less optimism in Jerusalem. Furthermore, the Soviet Union will obstruct the road toward a settlement. In any event, David Kimche, Avraham Tamir and their colleagues are setting out today for another round of talks with the Lebanese delegation.
[end recording]

CABINET MEETS, REVIEWS LEBANON SITUATION

Cabinet Statement

TA021212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Cabinet statement at the end of the weekly meeting in Jerusalem on 2 January read by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor -- live]

[Text] The Cabinet today heard reports from army intelligence officers about the situation in the Ash-Shuf mountains. Among other things, a report was given about the measures being taken to secure the area and about the stepped-up precautions to prevent harm to IDF soldiers. The Cabinet held a discussion following the reports.

Foreign Minister Shamir and the Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, who heads the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Lebanese Government, briefed the Cabinet on the state of the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

As is called for in clause 18 of the basic law, the Cabinet approved the president's trip to the United States on 3 January 1983.

The Cabinet also discussed the election committee slated to elect the chief rabbis. The discussion has not ended and will be continued next week.

Schiffer Reports Details

TA021539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Shim'on Schiffer reports on today's Cabinet session -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The IDF will remain in the Ash-Shuf hills until an arrangement is obtained and everything will be done to ensure the soldiers not affect the power struggles between the Druze and the Christians in Lebanon. This emerges from the Cabinet session. Today the ministers listened to historical reviews of the relations and confrontations between the Christians and Druze in the Ash-Shuf hills. The situation, as of now, is that the Christians have gained the upper hand over the Druze and Israel is in a serious dilemma. Yuval Ne'eman, who proposed working to establish a new Druze leadership, was answered by Eli'ezer Shostak with a cry: How long will we have to stay there until that new leadership is founded? Years, perhaps. The general Cabinet view was that the disputes between the sects in Lebanon will continue and, as stated, the IDF will behave with extra caution. The prime minister sharply commented to Minister Mordekhay Tzipori, who proposed withdrawing from several points in the Ash-Shuf hills. According to Menahem Begin, the elimination of such positions would sabotage the chance of bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion. Israel must hold onto its positions until the achievement of an arrangement that will lead to a Syrian withdrawal from the Al-Biqa' region, the PLO exit from Lebanon and to the return of the prisoners and missing.

As for the negotiations with Lebanon, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his ministry's director general, David Kimche, reported on the talks. The argument, as is known, concerns the definition of the deliberations' topics. Israel proposed discussing normalization and, alternatively, goodneighborly relations; the Americans want to make a compromise and discuss bilateral relations, constructive ones, with a detailing of their significance. There is not yet an agreed upon agenda and several ministers said after the session that in their opinion not even an agreed upon agenda remains in Sharon's document of understanding.

Ministers Shamir and Sharon are pleased with the achievements obtained in the talks to date and they believe that the secret agreements [sikumim] will, at the end of the process, be fully expressed in the open agreement [heskem].

Finally, another political matter: At the session, Yitzhaq Moda'i raised the latest statements by statesmen from Egypt. He proposed that the Foreign Ministry should issue an announcement according to which it is Egypt that has reaped the benefits of the peace agreement with Israel and its attempts to harm the agreement will not be worthwhile, with a hinted threat. Yitzhaq Shamir tried to moderate this approach and with the agreement of the prime minister, it was agreed to hold a discussion in the near future, in the Cabinet, about relations with Egypt.

Further Details

TA021705 Tel Aviv IDF in Hebrew 1510 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The Cabinet today heard a briefing by the defense minister and army officers about the steps being taken to preserve quiet in the Ash-Shuf mountains and about the increased precautionary measures to protect IDF soldiers there from harm. The ministers were also briefed about the first two sessions of the talks with Lebanon. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Frankel -- live or recorded] In the reviews presented by the army personnel, the IDF's policy in the Ash-shuf mountains was described as the maintenance of security in the field, while keeping as minimal a presence as possible. According to the reports, there has been almost no intentional shooting at IDF soldiers in the incidents between the Druze and the Christians. It has also emerged that taken as part of the total IDF casualties in Lebanon, the number of casualties in the Ash-Shuf mountains is not large.

The Cabinet heard a review by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the director general of his ministry, David Kimche, about the talks with Lebanon. Shamir and Kimche reported to the Cabinet about the inclination not to insist on the wording of the normalization section in the agenda as long as the contents are ensured. The impression that has been created in the talks is that despite the atmosphere which has been termed very good, it will be difficult to reach a written agreement with the Lebanese. A Cabinet source said after the session: An agreement is possible if the Americans support it -- but we will not reach any agreement with Lebanon without U.S. involvement.

IRAQ 'ACCEPTS' ISRAEL'S NEED FOR SECURITY

TA021831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Iraq released today the text of a conversation between President Saddam Husayn and a United States congressman, in which the Iraqi leader was quoted as accepting, apparently for the first time, Israel's need for security.

The discussion between President Saddam Husayn and Representative Stephen Solarz, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, took place more than 4 months ago, on August 25. It is not known why the Iraqi Government decided to publish it now.

SHAMIR 'INDIRECTLY' CONFIRMS TALKS WITH PLO

TA031111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has indirectly confirmed that Israel is holding direct contacts with the PLO in order to obtain the release of the prisoners it is holding. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel is doing everything possible to bring about the release of the captives. This matter of achieving the release of hostages is deeply-rooted in Judaism, and Israel does not rule out any means to obtain this goal and is adopting measures which it rejects politically, the foreign minister said.

DRORI, EYTAN TESTIFY BEFORE MASSACRE COMMISSION

TA301857 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] The commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre heard evidence in closed session today from northern command head General Amir Drori and Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan. Drori testified for 4 and 1/2 hours this morning, and Eytan's appearance lasted 2 and 1/2 hours at the afternoon hearing. On Sunday, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will testify for the second time. He too will give evidence in camera.

U.S. WILL TAKE CREDIT FOR LEBANON ACHIEVEMENTS

TA021104 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Jan 83 p 13

[Commentary by U.S. correspondent Refa'el Mann: "The United States Will Pick the Fruit"]

[Text] Many questions remain over the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, but on one point at least the result can be predicted. The United States will see to it that any achievement reached in the talks will be attributed to it, and it will tie the laurels to its own head when the sides reach an agreement.

Washington has important political and national reasons to demand the credit for what is achieved in Lebanon. First of all, at home, Ronald Reagan is desperate for any success, or even for signs of progress, toward withdrawing the foreign forces from Lebanon. Since sending the U.S. Marines to Beirut for the second time, Reagan is under constant pressure from the Congress to pull them out. Many congressmen say that by sending the Marines, Reagan has taken upon himself an unending obligation that might bring about a wider U.S. intervention.

Progress in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon will enable the President to declare to the skeptics in Congress that the Lebanon situation is improving and that fears of the U.S. sliding into combat are groundless.

The second reason involves the link between the events in Lebanon and the chances of the Reagan initiative successfully advancing the peace process in the area. The U.S. Administration would like to get the IDF out of Lebanon in order to succeed in what has become the main test of U.S. credibility in the Arab world's eyes.

The feeling that Lebanon is a test put by the Arabs to the United States became stronger during King Husayn's trip to Washington. The king and his officials left U.S. Administration officials with the impression that whatever happens in the Lebanon negotiations will influence Husayn's decision on whether to join the peace process negotiations.

To translate it to "Middle Eastern language," the Jordanians told the Americans: Before you promise us that you can force the Israelis' hands in the West Bank, let us see you force their pinky in Lebanon.

From the Jordanian signals it is clear that the Americans are being asked not only to remove the Israeli forces from Lebanon, but to present this as a direct, firm U.S. action which includes pressuring Israel.

When Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon announced the "working paper" which was achieved by direct contacts with Lebanon, it seemed as if he had succeeded in upsetting U.S. plans. But after the first impression passed, it became clearly that Sharon's success was limited and that the Americans still have a central role in the negotiations.

It seems that it is not only the United States' desire to succeed that will help them to pick the fruit of achievement. The Middle East situation will also help them do so. Despite what 'Ezer Weizman thinks, the negotiations with Egypt have already proved that without U.S. mediation the two countries will be able to manage themselves. [sentence as published] The reservoirs of good will are limited and at a certain stage only U.S. mediation will be able to pull the contacts from a dead end.

From Washington's point of view, Sharon can spend many hours in secret talks in Beirut. In the end, the Middle East reality, with the help of a little public relations, will ensure that Philip Habib and Ronald Reagan will be remembered -- at least in the United States and the Arab world -- as the ones who removed the IDF from Lebanon.

U.S. 'SQUEEZE' ON MILITARY COOPERATION REPORTED

TA300915 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Dec 82 pp 1, 3

[Report by Hirsh Goodman: "U.S. Squeeze on Military Cooperation"]

[Text] The American Administration has decided to back down from an agreement reached with Israel last month whereby the United States would supply Israel with technological know-how in exchange for operation data cleaned from Operation Peace for Galilee.

The agreement was hailed by Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon at the time as a turning point in Israel-American relations, strained since the outset of the war.

Consistent with the U.S. Administration's displeasure over Israel's refusal to consider President Ronald Reagan's peace proposals, U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has ordered an initial draft of the accord, reached by Sharon and the Pentagon's Andrew Marshal, to be toned down.

A Pentagon team is expected in Israel early next year to deal with the subject, but what they will be offering in return for the information Israel intends to exchange, will be minimal -- almost knowingly unacceptable to Israel.

The administration has also ordered the State Department to delay indefinitely permission for American participation in the Lavi project. Independent studies on design proposals for the plane, ordered by Israel from three U.S. manufacturers were completed two months ago, but cannot be released until permission is received from the State Department. Israel had hoped to sign a contract with one of the three firms for the manufacture of components for the aircraft by the end of this month.

The American decision to hold up the Lavi will severely set back the programme, already delayed for over a year now due to an Israeli re-evaluation process. Members of an official Israeli delegation which returned two weeks ago from the United States, where they had tried to push the Lavi project, were disappointed and convinced that only an order from President Ronald Reagan himself could get the project off the ice.

The most overt sign of American displeasure was the unprecedented snub afforded Sharon when he visited the United States three weeks ago, becoming the first minister in Israel's history to be refused an official meeting by the administration, despite intense behind-the-scenes efforts to secure one.

America also has no intention of releasing 75 embargoed F-16 aircraft, the delivery of which was suspended after Israel's attack on Beirut before Operation Peace for Galilee.

The current American attitude is not linked to the recent war in Lebanon, but rather to Israel's blanket refusal to consider President Reagan's peace proposals, according to informed sources.

NEW AIR FORCE COMMANDER TAKES POST 30 DEC

TA301959 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Major General 'Amos Lapidot was appointed this morning commander of the air force in place of Major General David 'Ivri. Maj Gen 'Ivri completed his active IDF service, and has been appointed the chairman of the board of directors of Israel Aircraft Industries. The replacement ceremony was held this morning at an air force base in central Israel. Before being appointed the commander of the air force, 'Amos Lapidot was the head of the Lavi project.

JERUSALEM POST ON 1982 ECONOMIC STATISTICS

TA310827 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Dec 82 p 1

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Texq] An unjustified rise in the country's standard of living, a stagnating economy, falling exports and rising deficits in the country's balance of payments were the main economic trends of 1982, as summed up in figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday. On the other side, unemployment figures did not increase beyond their 1981 level and there was a renewed increase in the level of investments.

Although treasury officials hve not concealed their concern at the gloomy situation reflected in the bureau's figures, Finance Ministry Director-General 'Ezra Sadan told Israel television last night that one should compare Israel's relatively full employment to the situation in Europe and the U.S. when judging the figures.

The opposition, for its part, has sharply criticized the government and claims that the figures prove the failure of its policies.

In a press statement MK Gad Ya'aqobi, head of the Alignment's economic and social committee, said that the bureau's estimates reflect the price the economy has paid for treasury policies implemented during 1981, and the "election economics of Finance Minister Yoram Aridor."

The bureau's estimate for 1982 show that, for the first time since the early fifties, the country's gross national product -- its total output of goods and services -- has not increased at all. During 1981 the GNP increased by some 5 percent.

Despite the lack of economic growth, private consumption increased by 7 per cent during the year. After taking into account the 2 per cent increase in population, consumption rose by 5 per cent in per capita terms.

The rise in the country's standard of living was reflected in the 16 per cent increase in the purchase of durable goods. There was a considerable increase in the sums spent on household appliances, up by 9 per cent in real terms, and (notably) new cars, up by 37 per cent in real terms.

During 1982 Israelis spent some IS12.4 billion on new cars, more than 3.5 times what was spent in 1980, when measured in real terms.

The increased level of consumption was linked to rising imports of machinery and equipment to yield an increase in imports of some 2 per cent.

On the exports side, the bureau estimates reflect a gloomy situation. Exports decreased by 5 per cent in real terms, and since the dollar prices of exports have declined, the nominal drop was even larger, some 8 per cent.

In overall terms, the excess of imports over exports totalled $4.9 billion for 1981, some 500 million more than in 1981.

Since defence imports shrank considerably this year the civilian side of the deficit registered an even larger increase, from $2.2 billion in 1981 to $3.2 billion this year.

Investment registered a 6.3 per cent increase, after falling levels in 1980 and 1981.

Stability in employment was reflected in stagnating productivity, which increased by only 0.3 per cent, after increasing by 2 per cent in 1981 and 3.7 per cent in 1980. The productivity of labour in the business sector registered a 1 per cent drop, as compared to an increase of 3 to 4 per cent during the previous years.

The nil increase in the GNP for 1982 was the result of a stagnating business sector, which did not register an increase in its output during 1982.

Industrial output did not grow during 1982, after a 7 per cent increase in 1981. Agriculture registered a considerable increase during 1982, of some 14 per cent, public services (which include payment of wages) increased by 3 percent, mainly as a result of larger payments of wages as a result of the war.

The largest drop was registered in the output of construction sector, some 8 per cent down on its 1981 level.

These figures do not reflect increase in real wages. Wages in fact decreased by some 2.5 per cent in real terms.

BRIEFS

SHEKEL DEVALUATION IN 1982 -- The rate of the Shekel's devaluation compared to the dollar in recent months was regular, reaching 5 percent per month under the new economic policy. In December the Shekel was devalued by 5.1 percent and since the beginning of the year it was devalued by 116 percent. The annual devaluation of the Shekel against the European currencies basket was 100 percent while the consumer price index rose by more than 130 percent during 1982. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Jan 83 TA]

ALGERIA

IBRAHIMI TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN 2-4 JAN

LD301500 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Summary] Dr. Ahmed Tales Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, will pay an official visit to Iran from 2 to 4 January.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ON COOPERATION WITH 'ARAB REACTION'

LD021658 Tripoli JANA in English 1446 GMT 2 Jan 83

[All ellipses supplied by JANA]

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Awal 18, Jan 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The revolutions leader has made further remarks to clarify points on the agenda of the Basic People's Congresses' (B.P.C.'s) third session. The leader stressed the necessity of the presence of people's committees in B.P.C.'s to clarify all points in an effort to pass strong resolutions.

On the present phase of mass mobilisation to counter the Zionist death wagon, the leader said: "This is an unusual phase. The Zionist death wagon continues to overrun the Arab nation. The Zionist enemy are an insult to the Arab nation. Lebanon is the second country following Egypt that has held direct talks with the Israelis. These negotiations come as a result of the Zionist occupation of Lebanon.

He said that through these direct and humiliating negotiations, the Israelis are seeking to remove Lebanon (as they had earlier done with Egypt) from the Arab fold. They are calling on Lebanon, he said, to end the state of war,capitulate, sign a peace treaty and open up the country to Israeli forces. He added that the Zionists have made it a condition that the so-called Multinational Peace Keeping Forces should remain outside the borders of occupied Palestine, so that these forces may maintain their security. The same condition was made on Egypt where such multinational forces are currently stationed in Egyptian Sinai.

The leader continued: "The Zionists refuse the entry of these multinational forces into lands which they occupied and now consider as being theirs. This is what is in fact now happening in Lebanon, when they say that any forces to maintain the so-called security of Lebanon should be stationed in Lebanon and not in occupied Palestine."

The leader said the Zionists have imposed their conditions and forced Lebanese officials to negotiate in occupied Palestine under the Israeli flag. It has transpired, he added, that the shameful negotiations between the Zionists and Lebanese officials are designed to remove another Arab country from the battle, the confrontation and the Arab fold, thus further guaranteeing Israeli security.

The leader warned that if the Zionists succeed in imposing their conditions and realising their goals through these negotiations, then they will turn their attention on Syria, entering into battle with it and imposing the same conditions. But we have faith, he said, that Syria will not capitulate.

The leader said the struggle with the enemy is a struggle for power. He said: "The Zionist enemy has mobilised all its energy and capabilities to impose hegemony and to overrun and occupy. Therefore, we should also confront this danger by total mobilisation. This mobilisation would require general sacrifices and belt-tightening to counter the enemy. Otherwise our existence will have no meaning."

During his participation, the revolution's leader made remarks on the memorandum of the revolutionary programme regarding neutralisation. He said this point is very important and should be fully absorbed by the Basic People's Congresses (B.P.C.'s) so that the priorities of confrontation with enemies of the Arab nation are put into perspective.

He said: "The main enemy of the Arab nation at this stage and for this generation is so-called Israel. This enemy must be destroyed...

"If the B.P.C.'s resolve to confront the Zionist enemy, this will therefore call on us to cooperate with other Arab countries, in spite of all contradictions between us and them at this stage. I personally do not see any utility in settling with reaction. The guardians of Israel are more dangerous than Israel itself. Whatever it may offer, Arab reaction cannot realise anything useful. Arab reactionaries are being clearly and totally utilised to serve American and Israeli interests. It is they who are responsible for undermining the capabilities of the Arab nation.

"But the matter is in the hands of the free Libyan people who are capable of taking the appropriate decisions and specifying the priorities in confronting enemies of the Arab nation. If the B.P.C.'s see any utility in joining forces with Arab regimes for mobilisation and confronting the enemy, then all other considerations should be dropped and contradictions between us and these regimes should be disregarded. If no such utility is seen in this effort, then the B.P.C.'s shall take the necessary measures they see fit."

The leader urged the B.P.C.'s to express their opinion regarding neutralisation so that any decision in this regard may be taken as a basis for political action by the People's Bureau for External Liaison in 1983.

The revolution's leader ended his participation in the discussions by affirming: "The Libyan Arab People have shown that they are truly practising people's authority, that the people are the masters and that ordinary individuals have started feeling that they rule themselves directly...The B.P.C.'s are above all...even the General People's Committee is considered at an end with the establishment of General People's Committees at municipal level. The masses are therefore free. They are no longer ruled by government of parliament."

SDAR PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT, INTERVIEWED BY JANA

LD302052 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Dec (JANA) -- Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front and Saharan Democratic Arab Republic president, left Tripoli this evening. In a statement to JANA, Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz hailed the outcome of his visit to the Jamahiriyah and his meeting with the brother leader of the revolution, and lauded the direct democracy practiced by the Arab Libyan people. He also said: I have seen the true exercise of people's authority during discussions in this year's third regular session people's congresses. I have also seen the great achievements and major tansformations accomplished by the Libyan Arab People by means of the revolution.

MAURITANIA

FRANCE'S CHEYSSON MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

AB301823 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydalla, the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, CMSN, yesterday evening received Claude Cheysson, the French minister for external relations, who arrived in Nouakchott yesterday evening.

The French minister was also received this morning by Col Maaouiya Ould Sid Ammed Taya, the prime minister and minister of national defense. A little while after this audience, Claude Cheysson, accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Maj Ahmed Ould Minnih, visited the "friendship port" before giving a press conference at the guest house.

Opening the press conference, Maj Ahmed Ould Minnih expressed pleasure with the state of good relations of cooperation between Mauritania and France and gave assurance that the visit of Mr Cheysson, a much-appreciated friend of Mauritania, will be well spent and will be of great interest to all Mauritanian authorities. The conference lasted about 30 minutes and in addition to cooperation between Mauritania and France, it covered other topics of importance. Before flying to Nouadhibou, Mr Cheysson answered questions from journalists, illustrating with emphasis and details the readiness of France to cooperate positively with our country in the fields chosen by it. He spoke about fishing, mining, agriculture and also about culture. Concerning the Saharan conflict, he renewed his country's support for African efforts to find a solution to it on the basis of the right of self-determination of the peoples. Our relations with Algeria, he said [words indistinct] but this does not have to be interpreted as a sign of hostility towards anyone. Concerning the Iran-Iraq conflict, he expressed the desire of his country to see the Iranians stop at their international borders now that Iraq has recognized the validity of the Algiers agreement, which [words indistinct]. We will not fail to give all necessary aid to our Arab friends. The conference especially dealt with political issues. France appreciates the free and proud character of our people, it commends our nonalignment and to France our independence is a sacred thing.

Moreover, we shall this evening relay the full text of the French minister of external relations press conference during our 1930 GMT newscast. Finally, it must be said that Claude Cheysson will leave Nouadhibou this evening for France.

30 December News Conference

AB311809 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 30 Dec 82

[News conference by French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson in Nouakchott on 30 December -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Cheysson] Our relations with Mauritania are excellent. There have been numerous contacts between our two countries since the advent of the present government in 1981. I remember that we had the honor of the visit of President Haydalla a year ago. The president himself has, for 1 year now, expressed his readiness to receive me. I have now answered his invitation. I have had the great honor to be received by the president to whom I delivered a personal message of friendship and confidence from the president of the Republic of France. These sentiments were expressed by President Mitterrand, himself, during his short visit to Nouakchott last spring. This demonstrates our solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, a state recognized by the international community and whose independence and sovereignty are recognized facts. I know this because France and Mauritania have old ties and relations to which we attach great importance.

Your foreign policy is based on certain things which we consider fundamental. [passage indistinct] You are determined to defend your independence. You want to cooperate with your neighbors and you are determined to resist all foreign trusteeship. Nonalignment constitutes one of the fundamental principles of your policy [words indistinct]. France supports nonalignment. We have affirmed this on all continents. It is not by chance that our relations with India have grown stronger.

It is not by chance we have adopted in Southeast Asia and Latin America positions which have been criticized by some of the superpowers because they are based on the recognition and affirmation of independence, sovereignty and the right to self-determination for all. Each people has the same rights as the French people. This is true of the Namibians, the Palestinians, the Kampucheans the Afghans, the Saharans and all other peoples in the world.

You know how much we are involved in the progress of the Arab world and the peaceful settlement of the problems facing certain Arab countries and peoples. I am thinking particularly about the Palestinian people. [passage indistinct]

[Question] Mr Minister, you have just talked about the many-sided cooperation between France and Mauritania and you also talked about cooperation within the framework of the regional organizations. Mauritania is now busy preparing (?another) national development plan which includes several projects concerning the agricultural, geological research and educational fields. In what precise fields will your cooperation be effective?

[Answer] First of all, I was right to recall that the French-Mauritanian cooperation can be direct or indirect, it can be direct as far as our bilateral relations are concerned and indirect as far as our relations with the regional organizations are concerned. For example, the Senegal River Development Organization. It can also be indirect whenever we give aid through the EEC. I consider this a very important principle. It is not for us to answer your question. It is for the Mauritanian Government. We believe that the development of the relations between the industrialized countries and those of the Third World are based on increasingly clear principles. We place resources at the disposal of countries and then these countries must decide how to use them and which projects should benefit from them. We have observed that both the EEC and French cooperation programs in Mauritania give increasing priority to the rural sector. As you know, one of the projects to which France is particularly involved is that of telecommunications, especially communications by satellite. This would make it possible to link Mauritania to all the international networks in order that in the future one may be able to contact Chicago, Moscow, Tokyo and Paris from Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and elsewhere.

[Question] We know that France has played a role aimed at settling the conflict between Iran and Iraq. What is the position of the two parties concerning efforts undertaken by France in this regard?

[Answer] During the past few years and particularly the past few months, the war between Iran and Iraq assumed a new character which must worry all those connected with the Arab world. For many months now, in fact, Iraq has formally recognized the validity of the compromise reached in Algiers, that is the validity of the border freely recognized during the Algiers conference. The Iraqis have now withdrawn from this border. The armed struggle has, therefore, lost the national character it has had for some time [word indistinct]. The war has, therefore, assumed another character and you know how much this worries all the Arab countries. [passage indistinct] We hope that this war, which has now lost all national significance -- the Iranian territory as recognized in Algiers is now free from all foreign forces and presence -- will cease. [passage indistinct]

[Question on the problem of Western Sahara indistinct]

[Answer] We cannot announce to you any French intervention whatsoever. We are not Saharans. We are not a neighbor of this Saharan people and we must not intervene in any way.

Report on Departure

AB311633 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson left Nouadhibou this morning after visiting our country. He was seen off at the Nouadhibou airport by Maj Ahmed Ould Minnih, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Capt Mohamed Ould Khal, member of the CMSN and commander of the 1st Military Region and Mr [name indistinct] governor of (Dahmed Nouadhibou). During his stay in our country, the French minister, who arrived in Nouakchott on Wednesday, was received by Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, and Col Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, prime minister and minister of national defense. The French external relations minister, accompanied by Maj Ahmed Ould Minnih, our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, visited the economic and industrial installations of the national industrial and mining company, the oil refinery at Nouadhibou and the Mauritanian Fishing Company.

MOROCCO

HASSAN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM LEBANESE PRESIDENT

LD012234 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] This afternoon at the Royal Palace in Marrakesh His Majesty King Hassan II received Mikmat 'Awdah, director of the protocol at the Lebanese presidency and Brigadier General Michel Nasif, chief aide-de-camp of President Amin al-Jumayyil of Lebanon, who came to Morocco carrying a private message from the Lebanese president to His Majesty King Hassan II. This meeting was attended by Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Lebanese charge d'affaires in Rabat.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ZHAO ZIYANG VISIT

29 Dec Banquet Speeches

LD301408 Rabat MAP in English 1206 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Rabat, Dec 30 (MAP) -- Mr Maati Bouabid, Moroccan prmier, offered a dinner banquet in the honor of visiting Chinese premier, Mr Zhao Ziyang on Wednesday in Rabat. The banquet was attended by many members of the Moroccan cabinet, Mr Dey Ould Sidi Baba, speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, and ambassadors of friendly countries accredited to Morocco. In a statement he made on the occasion, Mr Bouabid underlined the "perfect identity of viewpoints of both countries, mainly concerning the safeguard of independence of states and their territorial integrity as well as their support to liberation movements". He noted that when Morocco's adversaries try to obstruct the process triggered by the initiative of King Hassan II of Morocco in Nairobi (calling for a referendum in the Sahara), they give the proof that their aim is not to find a solution to the problem nor to unify African ranks, but on the contrary they seek to sow dissension and to open the way to hegemonism in Africa.

In his address, the Chinese premier lauded Morocco's struggle to obtain its independence as well as its efforts to safeguard the independence of the state and develop its economy.

He also lauded Morocco's support to liberation movements in Third World countries, and its policy of non-alignment.

Mr Zhao Ziyang also lauded Morocco's role in promoting African unity, calling the Casablanca African Summit of 1961, "one of the first milestones in the struggle for African unity."

Finally, Mr Zhao Ziyang hailed the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli aggressor, and lauded Arab countries' efforts, including Morocco, for support given and sacrifice made in favour of the Palestinian canal [as received].

Closing Session of Talks

LD301400 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Rabat, Dec 30 (MAP) -- Moroccan premier, Mr Maati Bouabid, and his visiting Chinese counterpart, Mr Zhao Ziyang, presided over the closing session of the meetings of the enlarged commission of the two countries.

Mr Mahjoubi Aherdan, Moroccan state minister of cooperation, who attended this meeting, announced that a Moroccan economic delegation will shortly visit China to discuss the question of the (?economic) deficit in trade exchanges between the two countries. He said Morocco had made propositions concerning the areas of agriculture, equipment, energy and mines, transports,public health, handicrafts and social affairs, and staff training. He added that the Chinese delegation had agreed on the principle of carrying out the plans included in the Moroccan propositions.

The two parties reaffirmed their common desire to consolidate bilateral relations in all fields, mainly the political and economic fields.

It is to be recalled that earlier on Wednesday, Mr Aherdan had co-presided, along with the Chinese state adviser, Mr Gu Mu, over the meeting of the Moroccan-Chinese Joint Commission. During this meeting, attended by delegations from both countries, the two parties examined various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

Zhao Ziyang Interview

LD011752 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Rabat, 1 Jan (MAP) -- Zhao Ziyang, Chinese premier, said in an interview on Moroccan television that the talks he had with Moroccan leaders in connection with his visit to Morocco have given "a new impetus to the two countries' joint action to strengthen of bilateral cooperation." Regarding this, he called the audience granted to him by King Hasan II in Marrakech "very important." "The sovereign has given particular attention to the development of friendly relations between our two countries," he added.

"My visit to Morocco," he said, "has been crowned with success because it has permitted increased cooperation and strengthened solidarity between Morocco and China."

Regarding Arab affairs, the Chinese premier repeated his country's support for the Arab peace plan adopted by the 12th Arab summit of Fes, "which has achieved the unity of Arab ranks. This plan," he said, "is both reasonable and realistic because it was worked out on sound foundations for finding and just and overall solution to the Middle East problem."

He recalled that the Chinese position concerning the Middle East "conforms to that of the Arab countries and the Palestinian people."

The Chinese leader then talked about his African tour and saw "a shining future for the African Continent," mentioning however, that "the inter-African discords have been created by imperialism and colonialism." China, he said, is against foreign intervention in Africa, particularly by the great powers, and the solution of these problems lies in negotiation and consultation "between the sides concerned."

The Chinese premier also said he favored the introduction of a new international economic order, stressing that the talks in progress under the aegis of the United Nations between the Third World and the industrial countries must be continued without delay. "The developing countries must nevertheless strengthen cooperation and solidarity among themselves and count above all upon themselves."

Speaking about the forthcoming conference of Nonaligned countries in New Delhi (India) next March, Zhao Ziyang expressed the hope of seeing Prince Norodom Sihanouk taking part in this meeting as "head of a coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea." "Prince Sihanouk is one of the five founders of this movement, which we support," and to exclude a founding member of this movement, he said, "would be a harmful decision and would not have any reasonable foundation."

The premier also recalled the achievements attained in China and pointed out that "we are pursuing the implementation of the policy of opening up towards the outside world."

FRANCE'S CHEYSSON STOPS OVER IN MARRAKECH

LD311746 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] The French minister of external relations arrived at Manarah Airport in Marrakech this morning on a brief stopover enroute from Nouakchott. He was met at the airport by the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, M'hamed Boucetta, the Moroccan ambassador in Paris, Youssef Ben Abbes, the French ambassador in Rabat and the governor of Marrakech region. Claude Cheysson made a statement in which he said that, despite the briefness of the stopover, he will review a number of issues of mutual concern with M'hamed Boucetta and recalled the summit meeting which will soon bring together President Mitterrand and His Majesty King Hassan II in Morocco.

SUDAN

DEPARTURE OF REGULAR TROOPS FOR IRAQ REPORTED

JN021502 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (SUNA) -- Last week, units of the People's Armed Forces left for fraternal Iraq to contribute toward defending the fraternal country against the aggression on its land. The dispatch of these units comes within the context of Sudan's pan-Arab commitments and in accordance with the decision of the Higher Political Command, in implementation of the Arab League and Fes summit resolutions and in affirmation of Sudan's adherence to its responsibilities in defending every inch of the Arab territories.

The Sudanese Army units were seen off by Deputy Commander in Chief General 'Abd ar-Rahan Muhammad Hasan Suwar ad'Dahab, a number of army unit commanders and several army officers and soldiers.

Gen Suwar ad-Dahab addressed the unit's personnel, stressing that their participation in defense of an Arab country confirms Sudan's Arab affiliation. He urged them to be good emissaries of their homeland and an example of this Arab togetherness.

A dispatch from Baghdad indicates that a number of Iraqi army commanders received the Sudanese troops upon their arrival at an Iraqi military base. Immediately upon arrival, our troops began to assume the missions entrusted to them in defense of the Iraqi land.

NUMAYRI ISSUES PROVISIONAL LAW ON PUBLIC ORDER

EA022024 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has issued a provisional order, namely the law to protect public tranquillity for 1982 [as heard].

The provisional order aims at speeding up procedures in trials concerning illegal assembly or violations of public security. Under the order, the commander of the force charged with public tranquillity or any officer delegated by him, is empowered to summarily try and to inflict a penalty of flogging or a fine not exceeding 100 pounds. It also aims at imposing a harsher penalty for illegal assembly, carrying arms, riot, assault or incitement to cause disturbances by increasing the penalty to 10 years imprisonment. The trial of cases of illegal assembly, carrying arms, riot and assault will be heard by state security courts or special courts formed by the president of the republic in consultation with the chief justice, or formed by the president of the High Executive Counilc, or the regional governor concerned, in consultation with the president of the Regional Court of Appeal. The provisional order also aims at regulating the enlistment by the policy of volunteer forces, or any citizens present or any other regular force or the People's Armed Forces, when protecting public tranquility.

An explanatory memorandum accompanying the provisional order points out that the order is issued in response to and in appreciation of the popular will expressed by the People's Assembly Parliamentary Group when it met at party headquarters on 7 December 1982. The order was issued out of concern for protecting stability and progress and combatting sabotage, terrorism and riots and out of concern for the security of the citizens, their lives and property, as well as for the maintenance of public tranquillity.

The explanatory memorandum accompanying the order also says that by this order, the concerted efforts of all citizens and the implementation of directives to the regular, security, political and administrative (?forces), it will be possible to uncover activities alien to our society such as riots, incitement to disturbances and the terrorizing of law-abiding people -- activities in which young students are exploited in the most atrocious manner.

The order deals with measures pertaining to trial and penalties, including flogging with no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 strokes. There will be fines not exceeding 100 pounds.

In case of inability to pay the fine, it will be replaced by flogging amounting to no more than 50 strokes for the crimes mentioned in Articles 117, 125, and 127 of the penal code.

The order also permits arrest without a judge's warrant for the crimes mentioned in the law, provided the duration of the arrest does not exceed 72 hours, in which case the consent of a judge of a criminal court must be secured.

CHAD

FROLINAT 1ST ARMY REPORTS CLASHES WITH FAN

AB311610 Paris AFP in English 1601 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Lagos, Dec 31 (AFP) -- The First Frolinat (Chad National Liberation Front) Army said here that its forces have taken the town of Am-Timam, southeastern Chad, and had numerous clashes in the country with troops of President Hissein Habre.

In a communique reaching AFP today, the First Army's leader Mahamat Abba Said also said that his forces controlled the towns of Bodoro and Dourbali since November and had since taken Bousso, all south and east of Ndjamena.

Mr Mahamat Abba Said was interior minister in the govenrment of President Goukouni Oueddei, ousted from the capital by Mr Habre's FAN on June 7.

The communique, dated Tuesday from Maiduguri, in the far northeast of Nigeria near Lake Chad, said that the Frolinat forces were currently advancing on Bouram, in the Chari Baguirmi region, southeast of Ndjamena.

The former minister also said in the communique that his troops had clashed with FAN forces and had cut the road between Abeche and Oum Hadjer, in the east of the country.

Fifty-seven FAN fighters and 17 from the First Frolinat Army had died in the clashes, during which the Frolinat forces seized several vehicles loaded with ammunition, according to the communique.

The communique also said that several FAN combatants had defected to the First Army, and spoke of tribal-type dissension among government forces. The Anakasa, Mr Habre's tribe, took all positions and facilities, it said.

The document in addition spoke of student demonstrations against the Habre regime and clashes between different FAN elements at Faya, Mongo, Am-Timam and Ndjamena. It also spoke of corpses "dumped here and there" in various parts of the capital and expressed fear over the fate of the former justice minister in the Goukouni government, a Mr Kassire, believed arrested.

HABRE DENOUNCES LIBYA IN END-OF-YEAR MESSAGE

AB311720 Paris AFP in French 1405 GMT 31 Dec 82.

[Text] Ndjamena, 31 Dec (AFP) -- In his end-of-the-year message to the diplomatic corps today, Chadian President Hissein Habre vehemently denounced "Libya's threat" to Chad.

"Libya's dark intentions" which it harbors against Chad still continue," he stressed.

It will be recalled that Libya occupies 150 square km of Chadian territory in the north and, according to authorities in Ndjamena, it is preparing an "imminent aggression" against Chad.

On the other hand, the Chadian president said he is "happy" to note that, at the international conference held in Geneva at the end of November to help to reconstruct his country, Chad found many trustworthy friends at this difficult stage of its existence.

The Chadian president asserted that at this stage of the reconstruction of the country, which was devastated by several years of war, there is still more to be done to complete the work begun.

Recalling the famine raging in several areas of the country, especially in the north and central east, Hissein Habre made an urgent appeal to the international community for the continuation of the emergency action undertaken in favor of Chad in all its forms.

GABON

REPORTAGE ON PRC PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG'S VISIT

Welcomed by Mbeiame

PA011703 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Libreville, Jan. 1 (AFP) -- Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang arrived here today for a 22-hour visit to Gabon on the fourth leg of his African tour.

The visit, which was not originally scheduled on the ten-nation tour, will be devoted primarily to strengthening cooperation between Peking and Libreville, an informed source said here.

The quality of that cooperation, notably in the medical and agricultural sectors, was praised by Gabonese Prime Minister Leon Mbeiame in a speech of welcome to his Chinese counterpart at the airport here. Mr Mbeiame noted that Gabonese President Omar Bongo had paid four visits to Peking, and he voiced his government's appreciation for the skill, hard work and respect for the Gabonese way of life of Chinese technicians aiding projects here.

Mr Zhao said that China and Gabon had always had good relations in all spheres, despite the geographical distance between them, and he praised President Bongo for (?his) contribution in strengthening bilateral friendship.

The Chinese premier was due to have talks later today with Mr Mbeiame and President Bongo, notably on strengthening existing agreements in the fields of agriculture, health and culture, which are said to be working well.

Mr Zhao's visit could lead to the opening of negotiations on renewing an agricultural agreement which expires on June 29 this year. Chinese experts are currently running two centres for growing rice and other food crops in the south and northwest of Gabon.

Seven Chinese doctors are also working in the main Libreville hospital, while Chinese money financed the building last year of a (?20)-bed medical centre here catering for 300 consultations daily.

Gabon formally recognised China in 1974 and broke off diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Cooperation agreements followed quickly and Peking gave a loan of 20 million dollars which is still being used.

However trade levels are low: In 1980 Gabon imported Chinese goods worth only two million dollars and has so far exported virtually nothing.

Both countries are also said to have similar views on major world and African problems.

Mr Zhao is due to leave tomorrow for Zaire.

Final Communique

AB030943 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Final communique on visit of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang, issued on Libreville on 2 January]

[Text] At the invitation of the Gabonese Government, His Excellency Zhao Ziyang, premier of the Chinese State Council, paid a friendly official visit to Gabon on 1 and 2 January 1983.

He was accompanied by an important delegation of top political officials and experts notably including His Excellency Gu Mu, vice premier and state councillor; His Excellency Wu Xueqian, minister of foreign affairs; His Excellency Gong Dafei, vice minister of foreign affairs; and His Excellency Lu Xuejian, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade.

During his stay, Zhao Ziyang held a working session with his Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, head of state, accompanied by Leon Mbeiame, prime minister and head of the government, who had received him earlier during a courtesy call. Also present were many members of the Gabonese Government including Georges Rawiri, first deputy prime minister; Martin Bongo, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Etienne Moussirou, minister of state in charge of commerce, industrial development, and promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises. The Gabonese head of state on this occasion asked the Chinese premier to convey his wishes of happiness and prosperity to the Chinese people and their leaders.

This visit by the Chinese high official once again will cement a long and fertile friendship marked particularly by the four visits that the Gabonese head of state has paid to China since 1974. This visit enabled the two parties to exchange views on the world political situation and their bilateral cooperation. The Gabonese delegation praised China's spirit of solidarity with the Third World, [words indistinct]. As such, the Gabonese delegation reaffirmed its strong desire to pursue its cooperation with China, which has on many occasions, shown [words indistinct] in Gabon's economic effort.

The Chinese party, on its part, (?admires) Gabon's openmindedness which causes it to maintain very good relations with countries which, like China, show their readiness to cooperate with their partners with respect to their sovereignty.

In this regard, they expressed satisfaction with projects already implemented or that are being carried out. They also agreed to devote special attention to the problems of the transfer of technology, rice development, and the promotion of integrated traditional and modern medical centers also geared toward research and training. They agreed to diversify their field of cooperation and to study priority projects corresponding to Gabon's real needs. The two parties also will study the prospects and machinery to intensify trade in a mutually advantageous line, on one hand, and to promote small and medium-scale enterprises, on the other hand. They expressed satisfaction with the signing of an accord on the creation of a China-Gabon joint commission in Beijing in December 1982, which should be a body of permanent consultation between the two parties.

During the deliberations, the two parties thoroughly reviewed important world issues, especially the African situation, and noted the convergence of their views on these points.

Since their meeting takes place at the beginning of 1983, the two parties urgently appeal to all world powers to stop viewing their actions on the international scene, particularly regarding their development aid policy, through the distorting mirror of their strategic interests and to promote the final attainment of human endeavor, that is, the well-being and happiness of mankind.

After expressing his happiness at meeting the Gabonese authorities, Premier Zhao Ziyang thanked them for the reception accorded him and his delegation. He also conveyed the good wishes of the Chinese authorities and people to the Gabonese authorities and people with the strong conviction that they will contribute further to the achievements of the renovation policy set up by the Gabonese head of state.

Issued in Libreville on 2 January 1983.

2 January Departure

AB021042 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Libreville, Jan 2 (AFP) -- Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang left here today for Zaire after a one-day visit to Gabon on the fifth leg of his African tour.

Mr Zhao, who had already been to Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Guinea, had talks with Gabonese President Omar Bongo and Prime Minister Leon Mbeiame.

ZAIRE

PRC PREMIER ARRIVES ON 2-DAY VISIT 2 JANUARY

AB021238 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang arrived in Kinshasa today on a 2-day official visit to Zaire.

Zhao Ziyang, who already has visited Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, and Gabon, is accompanied by a high-level delegation of 64 dignitaries, including 10 officials. These include Gu Mu, vice premier and state councillor; Wu Xueqian, minister of foreign affairs; [word indistinct] foreign affairs, Gong Dafei and Lu Xuejian, deputy minister of foreign economic relations and trade.

Upon his arrival at the Njili International Airport, the premier of China's State Council was met by Kengo Wa Dondo, first state commissioner, accompanied on the occasion by Kamanda Wa Kamanda, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation; Sakombe Kiope, governor of Kinshasa; and Niwa Mobutu, roving ambassador, as well as the commander of the (?city), Colonel Bozenge. After being presented with a bouquet of flowers by a little girl, Zhao Ziyang introduced his official entourage to the first state commissioner. The presentation of the welcoming committee and inspection of the guard of honor followed. At the VIP lounge, the first state commissioner, in the name of the founding chairman and president of the republic, welcomed the Chinese premier.

Zhao Ziyang Comments

AB021344 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 2 Jan 83

[PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang statement on arrival at Njili International Airport on 2 January -- recorded]

[Text] First of all, allow me to express my sincere thanks for the warm and friendly words Your Excellency has just used in my honor. I am very happy to pay a friendly visit to your beautiful country, which has abundant natural resources, at the invitation of His Excellency President Mobutu Sese Seko and the Zairian Government. Allow me to express my sincere thanks to you, the government and people of Zaire, for the honor given us and the warm welcome accorded us since we stepped on Zairian soil. Ten years have passed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Zaire. Relations between our two countries have developed well in all sectors. The Chinese Government is satisfied with the excellent relations between the two countries.

Our visit to Africa and to Zaire is to enable us to learn from the people of Zaire and Africa.

AFP REPORTS RESHUFFLE OF THREE MINISTERS

AB301659 Paris AFP in French 1621 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 30 Dec (AFP) -- Zairian head of state Mobutu Sese Seko on Thursday signed an ordinance under which three state commissioners have changed portfolios, AZAP announced.

According to the ordinance, Vunduawe Te Pemako, state commissioner for justice, hands over to Mongagba Ngbuka, state commissioner for public health and social affairs, and takes over for Makolo Jibikilayi as state commissioner for public works and territorial development. Makolo Jibikilayi replaces Mozagba as state commissioner for public health and social affairs.

The Zairian Government, which is headed by Kengo Wa Dondo, former Zairian ambassador to Belgium, was formed on 5 November.

BENIN

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESHUFFLED 31 DEC

AB311514 Paris AFP in French 1352 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Cotonou, 31 Dec (AFP) -- Benin's Revolutionary National Assembly (parliament) on Thursday elected Romain Vilon Guezo as the new president of its Permament Committee and approved the new National Executive Council (government), it was learned in Cotonou on Friday.

Following is the composition of the new government:

President of the Republic, Head of State and Government and Minister of National Defense	Colonel Mathieu Kerekou
Minister of Interior and Public Security	Michel Alladaye (formerly minister of popular justice)
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Tiamiou Adjibade (no change)
Minister of Finance	Isidore Amoussou (no change)
Minister of Planning, Statistics and Economic Analysis	Kifouli Salami (no change)
Minister of Commerce	Manasse Ayayi (no change)
Minister of Public Works, Construction and Housing	Gado Girigissou (no change)
Minister of Information	Amidou Baba Moussa (no change)
Minister of Transport and Communications	Bouraima Taofiqui (formerly director general of the department of posts and telecommunications)
Minister of Industries	Barthelemy Ohouens (no change)
Minister of Popular Justice	Francois Dossou (formerly minister of transport and communications)
Minister of Labor and Social Affairs	Adolphe Biaou (no change)
Minister of Public Hea'th	Philippe Akpo (no change)
Minister of Nursery and Primary Education	Moussa Traore Ali (no change)
Minister of Secondary, Technical and Professional Education	Edouard Zodehoungan (no change)
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research	Armand Monteiro (no change)
Minister of Tourism, Handicrafts and Leisure	Gregoire Agbahe (no change)
Minister of State Farms, Stockbreeding and Fishery	Amidou Boukari (no change)
Minister of Youth and Sports	David Gbaguidi (presently ambassador to Brussels)
Minister of Rural Development and Cooperatives	Justin Gnidehou (formerly minister of youth and sports who now replaces Gedeon Dassoundo)
Minister in charge of the Inspection of Public and Semi-Public Enterprises	Paul Awhanou (newly appointed to replace Alidou Kousse)
Minister of Mass Education and Popular Culture	Gratien Tonakpon Capo-Chichi

The election of the new president of the Revolutionary National Assembly follows the death of Ignace Adjo Boco in October 1982 after a long illness.

The post of vice president of the Revolutionary National Assembly will now be occupied by Roger Imorou Garba.

The new government has three new ministers and four ministers who have changed portfolios. Three ministers have left the government.

GHANA

FORMER MINISTERS, MP'S RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

AB011145 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council has ordered the release of 20 former ministers and members of parliament from protective custody. They are: George Nadjo, regional minister for Upper Region; Moses Yaw Frimpong, deputy minister of local government; S.K. Apereku, deputy Volta regional minister, and Alhaji M. Abdullay, deputy minister of the interior. The others are: Maxwell Aloku, deputy minister for Eastern Region; Alhaji A.B. Zimblem, deputy minister of industries; and David Osei Owusu, deputy minister for Central Region.

The former members of parliament are: Seydou Zakary, Gonja West; Marshall Adams, Nanumba; Alhaji Sulemana, Walewale; Seth Laryea Tetteh, Tema; F.K.D. Ojijetoh, Gonja East. The rest are S.K. Hazel, Agona; S.B. Atefa, Akim Oda; Alhaji M. Seyni Fall, Ayawaso; Joseph Pai, Krachi; A.E. Aggrey, Tarkwa Aboso; K.B. Techi, Twifo Heman Denkyira; E.A. Ayisi, Suhum. Other detainees released are Yaw Adu Larbi and F.W.A. Blay.

An official statement issued in Accra last night said the council has also approved the recommendation of a medical team that a total of 529 convicted prisoners be released on health grounds. Amnesty has also been granted to all convicted prisoners, excluding Armed Forces Revolutionary Council convicts, who are first offenders and who have served one-third or more of the sentences imposed on them except those sentenced for murder, robbery with violence, or treason.

Meanwhile, investigations are continuing on all persons still in custody including all former security personnel. Those on whom no adverse findings are made will accordingly be released.

GUINEA

SEKOU TOURE WELCOMES PRC'S ZHAO ZIYANG

AB301731 Paris AFP in French 1640 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Conakry, 30 Dec (AFP) -- Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese premier, arrived in Conakry on Thursday afternoon where he was welcomed by Ahmed Sekou Toure, the president of the Republic of Guinea.

Mr Zhao's 3-day official visit -- the second of its kind to be paid by a Chinese premier to Guinea, the first having been made by Chou En Lai in 1964 -- is the first leg of his visit to Black Africa. The Chinese leader has already visited Egypt, Algeria and Morocco.

The Chinese premier was given a very warm, massive and colorful welcome, especially at the "28 September stadium," where thousands of Guineans, dressed in white, gathered to hail the Guinean president and his guest in an African festive mood and to celebrate China-Guinea friendship.

Sekou Toure Speech

AB021051 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Speech by President Sekou Toure welcoming PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang, delivered in Conakry on 30 December -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Zhao Ziyang, prime minister of the PRC, Your Excellencies, the members of government and leaders of the PRC, [applause], Your Excellencies, the members of the diplomatic corps, comrade leaders and militants of the Guinean revolution:

We are very happy to welcome an eminent leader who, [words indistinct] engaged in the struggle among his people and who has worked relentlessly for the progress of the great country of China. We hail the representative of a great people; a people greatly loved and admired by the other peoples of the world; a people whose civilization is thousands of years old; a people who have great confidence in their cultural identity; a people who, despite their great number, have shown unity in all phases of their history. The Chinese constitute the world's largest population. They are twice the number of all Africans put together, but their great merit is that they have remained united over and beyond the diversity [words indistinct] China has remained united and since China's accession to independence in 1949, it has always made a valuable contribution to all the oppressed peoples of the world. China has adopted an intransigent stand in defense of the independence and dignity of all nations of the world and all peoples of the world. Despite its complex problems, China has not failed to give invaluable assistance to countries all over the world and in particular to the people of the Third World. All the liberation movements in Africa have received aid without strings from the Chinese people in order to accelerate the national liberation process. We know that China pursues inviolable and just principles and we are convinced that the solidarity and friendship between the Guniean and the Chinese people will always exist.

NIGERIA

USSR AMBASSADOR PLEDGES CONTINUING SUPPORT

AB301533 Lagos NAN in English 1515 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Lagos Dec. 30 (NAN) -- The Soviet ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Vladimir Snegyrev, said in Lagos today that the Soviet Union's commitment to the Ajaokuta Steel Project did not end with the completion of building the plant. Mr Snegyrev told a news conference that the Soviet Union would continue to give support to the Nigerian Government in many ways for the full realisation of the project. He said that the guarantee of supply of spare parts and technical manpower would form a major area of co-operation by his government.

The ambassador, who was addressing the news conference on the Soviet Union's 60th national anniversary, explained that the experience of the Soviet Union had shown that nations' problems could only be solved successfully if all forms of inequalities were eliminated.

ANGOLA

DOS SANTOS REPORTEDLY SUSPENDS 32 MPLA OFFICIALS

LD302334 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2300 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Angolan sources in the Portuguese capital have told the Portuguese News Agency, ANOP, that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, in Luanda, has suspended 32 high-ranking officials of the MPLA-Labor Party. One of those suspended is Ruth Lara, in charge of the MPLA political education department and wife of leading Angolan official Lucio Lara.

The same sources added that the suspensions were decided upon following an inquiry into the 28 August performance of a play written by Costa Andrade. Costa Andrade, a writer and journalist, is under arrest in Luanda for questioning.

DOS SANTOS, SOVIET ENVOY VISIT REPAIR BASE

AB300937 Luanda ANGOP in French 2035 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] Luanda, 29 Dec (ANGOP) -- Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, this morning visited the installations of the Central Repair Base (BCR) of the Ministry of Defense, within the framework of the general offensive against waste and disorganization.

The main purpose of the visit was to check on the implementation of the recommendations of the first offensive carried out within this unit last March and to become acquainted with the current state of organization and operation of the base.

The Angolan head of state met briefly with the workers at the base. He was accompanied by Colonel Angonio Franca, chief of staff of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola; Colonel Dino Matross, minister of state security; Soviet Ambassador to Angola Vadim Loginov; and other senior officials from the office of the president of the republic.

The president stressed that his visit to the base was the result of information that it was facing major organizational problems.

During the tour, which was preceded by a meeting with top officials of the base, Jose Eduardo dos Santos pointed out that some solutions have already been found to take the BCR out of its present troubles and lay the foundation for its recovery so that it can better defend the motherland. One of the main measures, he said, consists of providing better social conditions for the workers and managerial staff of the base to enable them to function effectively.

The Angolan head of state also mentioned other solutions to improve the present state of the base, including the establishment of consumer cooperatives, greater mutual assistance between the workers and management, and the recruitment of specialized technicians.

It should be mentioned that the BCR comes under the Angolan Ministry of Defense and is mainly responsible for maintaining, repairing, and refurbishing military vehicles and various arms.

DOS SANTOS DELIVERS NEW YEAR' MESSAGE

EA011850 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 1 Jan 83

[New Year's message by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Workers Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] Comrades and compatriots: the new year is now about to begin. New hopes [word indistinct] to all those who believe in the just political line of the MPLA-Workers Party and the party's capacity to lead the Angolan people in the long struggle, the long and difficult struggle, that we are waging against imperialism for complete independence, for peace and for the wellbeing of all citizens.

In the year that is now ending there have been unhappy events and there have been moments of happiness. There have even been moments of popular euphoria -- ones caused by victories won in sports events. There were successes and [word indistinct] in the economic and social fields. In short, there was a bit of everything in the life of each one of us and in the life of the nation, as has happened in other years. However, what came to be the dominating event was the fact that the external and internal enemies of our people intensified their attacks against our revolution in the military, economic, organizational, and propaganda spheres.

Fortunately, in this complex dialectical movement of life and history -- in which new ideas overcome decadent ones, justice eliminates injustice and the progressive movement of socialist civilization destroys that social order adhered to and valued by the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie -- our party, inspired by the teachings of late President Agostinho Neto and loyal to the ideology of the proletariat, has been laying down the right guidelines and taking the necessary measures to ensure the defense of the revolution.

Last year's analysis of the international situation indicates that what is happening is what should happen. The industrial production of the developed capitalist countries fell considerably, to levels that can be compared with those of the economic recession that took place in the 1930's. The terms for bank credits deterioriated, and this resulted in the highest increases in interest rates, ones that only the great multi-nationals were able to [word indistinct].

This increase in interest rates, linked with competition between multinationals, provoked the deterioration of the world economy and that disastrously affected the economies of the developing countries. On the one hand, the export of raw materials to the developed capitalist countries decreased [words indistinct] the (?saturation of the market).

On the other hand, the prices for such products fell drastically and the prices of imported manufactured goods increased. This means that foreign currency revenue and the self-financing capacity decreased. In these conditions economic growth falls far short of the needs of these countries. Generally speaking, the external debts of these countries increased, together with their dependence on imperialism.

This critical economic situation has been compounded by the political and warmongering offensive of the most reactionary and conservative circles of imperialism. This provoked a heightening of international tension and the arms race, thus exposing mankind to the threat of a nuclear war. In Africa, Asia, and Latin America, imperialist aggressiveness has resulted in the creation of hotbeds of military conflicts, the use of force and the policy of intimidation and fomenting trouble [intriga], blackmail and slander in order to prevent progressive social and political transformations taking place and to annihilate national liberation movements.

In this context, the imperialist siege against the countries of southern Africa, particularly against the People's Republic of Angola, has increased. The apartheid regime has, in fact, been transformed into an instrument of imperialism for military, political, and social destabilization of the regime and is trying to strengthen its alliance with Zionism and Morocco in its bid to fulfill its mission.

Acts of armed aggression have been increased by regular South African forces stationed in Namibia, which they illegally occupy, and by the puppet armed gangs and mercenaries in their service against the civilian population, military units, and economic and social targets so as to create insecurity and retard our national reconstruction. The racist enemy and its lackeys do not leave us with any alternative other than to (?heighten) and [word indistinct] the country's defense, territorial integrity, and the sovereignty that we won at such a cost. This demands that we should, before anything else, give priority to strengthening our military capability and material and technical means.

Each national citizen, be he at the battlefront or in the rearguard, must understand that the most important task at this moment is that of defending the fatherland, which is threatened by imperialism and its lackeys. Our greatest effort, our greatest care and attention in the rearguard must be channelled to the valiant combatants in our armed forces. Even on this festive day our men are at the battlefront. They have been (?carrying out) military operations far from their friends and relatives in order to implement their noble duty of defending (?peace) and our freedom.

In all towns and villages, in all families, collective dwellings and agglomerations of citizens who are celebrating the beginning of the new year, people should pay due tribute to all those who, doing their duty, remain in military positions, at border posts, command posts, barracks and on highways to defend our beloved country and ensure order and [words indistinct] peace for our people.

(?Last year) we tried to take a significant step over military mobilization for the defense of the fatherland by approving the law on military service, which has already been put into operation. This law will permit us to create conditions for reinforcing the manpower that has staunchly remained at the battlefronts for some years now, transforming the duty of defending the fatherland and the country into a compulsory duty for all citizens of military age. The new blood that we are going to inject into our armed forces will without doubt bring positive results not only in battles against the enemies but also in consolidating the organization and leadership of our armed forces. We must be able to rationally channel the potential that each young person brings with him so as to continuously strengthen our military units. In the organization and training of the new soldiers, (?greater) attention will have to be paid from the beginning to discipline and military support for the people and revolution.

This military (?consolidation) will thus create active military units that will create a (?very) [words indistinct] atmosphere, which will deter the enemy everywhere and at any time from freedom of action. We should, however, not forget their political and ideological training. Our armed forces are different from the enemy's because of their awareness and attitude toward the war. We are waging war because we want peace, which is necessary and allows us to undertake work for the people's well-being.

Our combatant must, in fact, feel and understand that the effort he makes is for the good of the country and the nation. For our part, we must not forget the need to ensure a progressive improvement of his social conditions. Therefore, let us in the rearguard ensure the [word indistinct] of all citizens so as to [word indistinct] the effort and the sacrifice of those who guarantee the defense of freedom at the battlefronts. Our participation in the people's defense force and the people's vigilante squads constitutes a valuable contribution to the nation's territorial defense and the achievements of the people and (?the revolution).

Comrades and compatriots, [words indistinct] that the effects of the undeclared imperialist war waged against our people have been felt in the economic field and, as such, have affected the living conditions of our people, forcing us once again to devote a greater part of our human, material, and financial resources to increasing our defense capability. As a result, this has affected several of the economic development objectives that were set by the congress [words indistinct].

We shall have to continue to work to perfect the organization in all party and state structures by improving discipline and control over the implementation of tasks at all levels. Without organization there can be no success in the implementation of plans and programs. Without discipline the leadership becomes weak. We shall have to constantly strengthen the leadership and state power in the different echelons, institutions, and state and party bodies.

The year 1983 will be a year of strengthening organization. I wish you all happy celebrations and a good and very prosperous new year. The struggle continues and victory is certain.

BOTSWANA

DEATH OF VICE PRESIDENT SERETSE ANNOUNCED

MB030945 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0930 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Botswana's vice president, Lenyeletse Seretse, has died in Gaborone after a long illness. He was 62.

President Quett Masire has announced on Radio Botswana that Mr Seretse had been undergoing treatment for an undisclosed illness. Mr Seretse was a cousin of Botswana's first president, Sir Seretse Khama, who died in 1980.

MOZAMBIQUE

MOZAMBIQUE-CUBAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED 30 DEC

EA311336 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Mozambique and Cuba have rejected any attempt to link the independence of Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist forces from Angola.

A communique issued in Maputo yesterday, following the visit by Cuban Vice President Juan Almeida Bosque, termed U.S. efforts to link the two issues as an imperialist demand that contradicts what has been established by UN Resolution 435.

The two countries condemned South Africa's repeated refusals to implement the United Nations plan for Namibia's independence and reaffirmed their support for and solidarity with the struggle of the Namibian people, led by SWAPO. The communique also reaffirmed the Cuban and Mozambican support for the ANC of South Africa and condemned the recent massacre of South African refugees and Lesotho citizens in Maseru by the racists.

Juan Almeida Bosque, according to the communique, praised the courage of the Mozambique people in their fight against the armed bandits who are trained, financed and infiltrated into Mozambique territory by the South African regime with the aim of spreading terror and instability.

The communique also reaffirmed continuing support for the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in the fight to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On the Middle East, the communique called for the establishment of a just and lasting peace based on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to an independent state. The two countries emphasized their support for the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG EXPLOSION CAUSES 'SLIGHT DAMAGE'

MB311200 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] A bomb exploded at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court shortly after midnight last night, but damage was slight and no one was hurt. Police headquarters in Pretoria says the incident appears to have been sabotage, and the investigation is continuing.

The explosion, which occurred on the western side of the building, formed a hole about half a meter deep in the ground. A window was blown out, and telephone links at the court were cut. Windows in the vicinity were shattered by the blast.

'FACTION FIGHTING' ERUPTS NEAR GOLDMINE

MB010931 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Faction fighting has erupted on an Orange Free State goldfield. Brian Emeness has details:

Two rival groups started attacking each other with pangas and other dangerous weapons after a fight had occurred near the St Helena Goldmine. A large contingent of heavily armed police officers were sent to the area where the fighting was taking place in order to try and separate the angry mob, which totalled close on 600.

Many of the fighters were badly injured and had to receive immediate medical attention.

A police spokesman said that although all was quiet this morning, the situation is still very tense. Brian Emeness, Capital news, Welkom.

SABOTAGE SUSPECTED IN THREE GOLDMINE FIRES

MB011400 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Sabotage is suspected on an Orange Free State goldmine, where three fires are raging underground. Brian Emeness has full details:

Fire fighters are desperately trying to contain a series of fires which are burning furiously underground at the President Steyn gold mine in Welkom. Damage is extensive and already the fires have had a serious effect on mining operations. The entire No 1 vent shaft has had to be closed down.

Several senior officals fear that the fires were the deliberate work of saboteurs, and the security staff have opened intense investigations into the exact cause.

With the fire still burning out of control at this stage, Proto [expansion unknown] rescue teams fear that it will burn for many days before they can finally contain it.

SECURITY CHIEF ON LESOTHO RAID, KOEBERG BLASTS

NC011659 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 1 (AFP) -- South African Security Police Chief General P.J. Coetzee said today that the banned African National Congress had "long ceased" to be a legitimate black nationalist movement.

In a statement published here, General Coetzee accused the ANC of being directed by the South African Communist Party (SACP), also banned, "which in turn is directed by the Soviet Union."

The ANC and SACP had organised "hundreds of acts of terrorism, murders, bombings" since they had "declared war on the people of South Africa" 20 years ago, General Coetzee said.

His statement named five ANC leaders who he said had been killed in South Africa's raid on the Lesothan capital of Maseru on December 9, in which 42 people died, 12 of them Lesotho civilians.

The five named -- Jackson Balisani Tayo, Zola Sgonyela Nqini (the ANC's chairman in Lesotho), Ligwa Graham Mdlankomo, Adolph Joseph Mpongoshe and Cambridge Morena Lucky Moloisane -- trained ANC "terrorists" in Lesotho in the use of Soviet-made weapons and helped them to cross secretly into Transkei and Cape Province, General Coetzee alleged.

All five were former prisoners in South Africa's Robben Island jail, he said.

Others killed in the raid had been trained in the Soviet Union, East Germany and Angola, General Coetzee [word indistinct].

He denied ANC claims that sabotage of South Africa's nuclear power station at Koeberg, near Cape Town, on December 19 and the shooting of ANC turncoat Bartholomew Hlapane on December 17 were in retaliation for the Lesotho raid.

Both attacks had been planned well in advance, General Coetzee said in what was seen here as an acknowledgement of ANC claims that it had planned the Koeberg sabotage.

As recently as a week ago the security police were saying they were not in a position to place responsibility for the four blasts in key parts of the plant on any particular organisation.

Some observers and experts noted the Koeberg sabotage was almost a carbon copy of an attack on a similar plant in 1975 in Fessenheim, eastern France. That attack was blamed on French and German ecologists opposed to nuclear power, which also has met considerable criticism in South Africa.

In Cape Town an anti-nuclear movement has revived and local authorities have expressed fears about safety at Koeberg.

ZAMBIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CUBAN OFFICIAL'S VISIT

MB301810 Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 27 Dec 82 p 1

[By MAIL reporter]

[Text] Zambia and Cuba have reaffirmed their common political will to intensify and consolidate the bilateral relations in all fields of human endeavour for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

This is contained in a joint communique signed by party Secretary General Mr Humphrey Mulemba and Cuban Vice President Mr Juan Almeida Bosque.

The communique was released shortly before Mr Bosque left for Mozambique at the end of his five-day official visit on Saturday.

The two leaders recognized the similarity between the two revolutions in Cuba and Zambia and underlined the need for regular contacts at all levels of the people and government in order to enhance understanding and solidarity between the two countries.

The leaders also reviewed the current worsening situation in Southern Africa, particularly the current consultations on the independence of Namibia and the South African policy of apartheid and destabilization of the region.

"These include unprovoked and systemic attacks and aggression against the Frontline states and Lesotho," the communique said.

Both delegations expressed their recognition of the heroic struggle waged by the Palestinian people and the Lebanese forces against the Zionist Israeli regime.

On Namibia, they reaffirmed their complete and unequivocal support for the liberation struggle being waged by the Namibian people.

They observed that some progress had been made in the consultations that took place in New York between the Frontline states, Nigeria and SWAPO, on one hand, and the Western contact group and South Africa, on the other.

But they attacked the United States for introducing a "new and dangerous element" which attempts to link the negotiations for the independence of Namibia with the withdrawal of the Cuban troops in Angola.

The two leaders called upon the Pretoria regime to cease all the criminal and "barbaric" acts of aggression and to withdraw immediately all her invading troops from southern Angola.

And earlier at State House, in his farewell remarks, President Kaunda told Mr Bosque that Zambia had greatly appreciated his visit and looked forward to the day when the Cuban president, Dr Fidel Castro, would come here.

Dr Kaunda said Zambians thought highly of Dr Castro, especially on the manner in which he had run the nonaligned organisation.

"I hope that the committee of four will continue to work together towards finding solutions to problems such as the trouble currently going on between Iran and Iraq."

He said Zambia would continue to play her role in the activities of the organisation and will soon send delegations to New Delhi and Nicaragua, respectively.

Mr Bosque was seen off at the airport by Mr Mulemba; the secretary of state for defence and security, Mr Grey Zulu; several party and government leaders and members of the diplomatic corps.

ZIMBABWE

ANTIGOVERNMENT REBELS KILL 6 PEOPLE, KIDNAP 2

AB010652 Paris AFP in English 0350 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Harare, Dec 31 (AFP) -- Armed anti-government rebels, continuing (?a holiday) reign of terror in southwestern Zimbabwe, today ambushed and killed six travellers, and in a separate incident kidnapped two other people, reports reaching here said.

Police in Nyamandhlovu, 50 kms northwest of the regional center of Bulawayo, told AFP that guerrillas had gunned down five whites -- two of them children -- and a black security guard driving in a car from Nyamandhlovu to Bulawayo.

Near Turk Mine, 50 kms east of Nyamandhlovu, an elderly white man and his 22-year-old grandson were abducted. In that incident, the kidnappers left notes for the family saying the government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe must return to the opposition party of Josha Nkomo a number of properties seized by the state early this year, the reports said.

The authorities maintain that the rebels, believed to number more than 1,000 in the southwest, are of Mr Nkomo's former guerrilla army who in some cases are being encouraged in their months-long campaign of violence by officials of Mr Nkomo's party.

News of the latest "dissident" acts reached Harare as Mr Mugabe was delivering his New Year's message to the nation, in which he vowed his government would "annihilate" the rebels and also South African-trained infiltrators he has blamed for acts of sabotage in the country.

The six gunned down by automatic rifle fire 20 kms north of Bulawayo today were identified by police as farmer David Walters, 42, his children Michael and Sean, John Hearn, 45, Philip Boiron and security guard Themba Ndebele. No other details on the attack were immediately available.

The kidnapped pair are Benny Williams, in his 60's, and his grandson David Bilang, 22, authorities said.

Mrs Williams received notes from each of the men in which she (?was told) to go to Bulawayo "to the CHRONICLE (the local newspaper) and send a message to Mugabe to release all ZAPU (Mr Nkomo's party) properties and we will be released." The note said the kidnappers insisted their demand be carried out by the weekend. But Mr William's note said the two would not be killed.

Kidnapped Farmer Found Dead

NC011910 Paris AFP in English 1906 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Harare, Jan 1 (AFP) -- The body of an elderly farmer kidnapped yesterday by anti-government guerrillas was found today in the Turk Mine farming area north of the southwestern Zimbabwe city of Bulawayo, a security source confirmed.

Benny Williams, 71, a well-known Matabeleland farmer, had been shot to death, the source confirmed. His body was found not far from his farm, but there was no sign of his grandson, David Bilang, 24, who was kipnapped at the same time.

Mr Bilang, a student in South Africa, had been visiting his grandparents' farm on holiday. He and Mr Williams disappeared after leaving the farm in a motor vehicle.

A note sent to Mr Williams' wife Geraldine at the farm within hours of the kidnapping said the abductors were guerrillas of the former ZIPRA army which was led by Joshua Nkomo in the fight for Zimbabwean independence.

The note demanded the return of property owned by Mr Nkomo's party, which was confiscated by the government after arms caches were found there in February. Mr Nkomo was dismissed from the coalition government at the same time.

The note gave this weekend as a deadline, but did not directly threaten the captives or say how the government should comply with the demand in so short a time.

Police and army units continue to search the area, the scene of several killings and dozens of robberies in the past 10 months. Another prominent Turk Mine farmer, Philip Ellman-Brown, was abducted from his farm at gunpoint and killed in August.

Government Issues Statement

MB021156 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] A government spokesman has issued a statement concerning the deaths of six people murdered by bandits in the Nyamandhlovu area, about 60 km northwest of Bulawayo, last Friday. The spokesman said at about 0930 on Friday morning bandits ambushed a vehicle at (Muguza), (Block) Ranch, and killed six people. The dead have been identified as Mr David Walters, his two children, Mr Philip Boiron, Mr John Hearn, and Mr Temba Ndebele. Security forces have been deployed in the area, and the followup operations are in progress.

On the same day, a gang of bandits kidnapped Mr Benny Williams and his grandson, Mr David Bilang, at Turk Mine, Inyati. Security forces discovered the body of Mr Williams, bayoneted to death and buried in a coffin about 6 km from where he was kidnapped. Before the bandits commited the murder they forced Mr Williams to write a letter to the government demanding the return of ZAPU properties which were taken by the government after the discovery of arms on ZAPU farms early last year. They also asked Mrs Williams to publicize the kidnapping.

Yesterday, in West (Commonage), in Bulawayo, armed bandits robbed a woman of some 300 dollars. The suspects have been arrested and are to appear in court.

NKOMO DENIES LINK WITH TERRORIST INCIDENTS

NC021510 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Harare, Jan 2 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe's opposition leader Joshua Nkomo denied today that anti-government rebels who kidnapped two people and killed six others in an ambush on New Year's Eve were his supporters.

Notes left by the abductors of farmers Benny Williams, 71, and his grandson David Bilang, 24, near Turk Mine in southwestern Zimbabwe, demaned the return of Nkomo party properties seized by the Robert Mugabe government in February, 1982.

Mr Williams was dound dead the same day six kms (four miles) from the scene of the kidnapping, police said. Although earlier reports said he was shot, police today said he had been chopped to death with an axe and decapitated.

Despite a search by security forces, neither Mr Bilang nor the two bands of attackers had been located by midday today, police said.

In a telephone call from his Bulawayo home to a foreign journalist in Harare today, Mr Nkomo said, "anyone who truly supports me would not commit these kinds of acts," referring to the kidnapping and an attack the same day 50 kms (35 miles) away in which three white farmers, two children and a black security guard were shot to death.

Mr Mugabe had charged in his New Year's Eve message that anti-government "dissidents" who have killed more than 60 people in the southwest since Mr Nkomo was fired from the Cabinet last year were former members of ZIPRA, Mr Nkomo's wartime guerrilla army.

The government has alleged that some Nkomo party officials encouraged the violence and that other former ZIPRA men had fled to South Africa to be trained for sabotage missions in Zimbabwe.

After Mr Nkomo was dismissed from government on charges of plotting and the dissident crisis began in March, 1982, leading members of Mr Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) said Mr Nkomo should be arrested.

The opposition leader's statement today appeared to be prompted by renewed concern over possible action against him.

Mr Nkomo said the attacks on Friday, as well as an assault on buses and a train near Bulawayo on Christmas Eve in which three people died, were the "work of people who want to destroy Zimbabwe."

He denied any connection between his Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the rebels who are believed to number more than 1,000.

The dissident activity has been concentrated in the southwestern region of Matabeleland, home of the Ndebele ethnic minority of which Mr Nkomo is the political spokesman.